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Moves to counter Israeli plans

AMMAN (Petra) — The secretary-general of the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for the Steadfastness of the Palestinian People, Dr. Fouad Bseiso, said Thursday that senior researchers and experts in housing and structural organisation conducted an in-depth study covering the economic, technical, engineering, legal, geographic, and demographic aspects of the occupied territories. In a press statement he made at the conclusion of a two-day symposium the joint committee held in Amman, Bseiso said the committee conducted an analysis of Israeli attempts to impose a regional scheme and comprehensive structural organisation for the West Bank and Gaza. He said that the legal and economic analyses conducted proved that the Israeli plans violated international norms and laws. He added that the symposium called for forming a regional and structural plan that reflects the national view and that it stressed the need to preserve the status of the housing sector and improve the standard of housing performance. The symposium also emphasised the need to follow the implementation of a data bank on Palestine and lauded Jordan's support for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories through the committee.

'Group planned attack after Arafat speech'

HAMBURG (AP) — A group planned a large-scale terrorist action after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's U.N. speech to turn public opinion against Palestinians, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was quoted Friday as saying. Mubarak, in an interview with the West German weekly news magazine Der Spiegel, did not name the group and did not draw any links between the planned attack and the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. Asked in the interview what would happen if "Arabs opposed to peace in the Middle East activated terrorists such as Abu Nidal's group," Mubarak was quoted as replying: "By Allah, one must reckon with this. Certain groups have surely hammered out such plans. I don't want to name any names, but there is one group that wanted to let Arafat speak before the U.N. General Assembly in New York and then start a large-scale terrorist action in order to turn public opinion against the Palestinians. These criminal elements that are trying to prevent peace may be working with certain Israeli circles. I don't know. Let's be honest, we can't blame Arafat for every terrorist attack. Arafat has publicly renounced terrorism." Spiegel did not say when and where its reporters interviewed Mubarak.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Katyushas hit northern Israel

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Several Soviet-designed Katyusha rockets fired from Lebanon landed in northern Israel overnight, causing no injuries or damage, residents and Israeli army radio said. Army radio said officials of the Lebanese Amal militia in the southern Lebanese port city of Sidon announced that the Katyusha attack was in retaliation for Israeli air raid Thursday on an Amal base in which eight people were wounded. Israeli officials indicated the air raid was a "warning" to Amal not to cooperate with Palestinian groups which have launched three recent infiltration attempts in which nine commandos were killed.

Kabul declares ceasefire from Sunday

MOSCOW (R) — Afghan President Najibullah said Friday the country's armed forces would observe a ceasefire from Sunday in their war against insurgents, the Soviet news agency TASS reported. The agency, in a dispatch from Kabul, said the president made the announcement in a television address. It quoted the Afghan leader as saying that government forces "will not stage any military action against the opposition forces from Jan. 1." The Afghan leader said that "the government would wait for a positive reply from the opposition to this move until Jan. 4," TASS said.

Dutch foreign minister may meet PLO

THE HAGUE (R) — Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek may establish the Netherlands' first top-level contact with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) next month, the Foreign Ministry said Friday. Van den Broek has been invited to open a symposium which will be attended by two senior advisers to PLO leader Yasser Arafat in the Hague Jan. 31. He is considering whether to accept, spokeswoman Renee Groenewoud said. Dutch civil servants have held meetings with the PLO but the Netherlands has long rejected contact at ministerial level.

Moscow: 600 missiles destroyed

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union has destroyed more than 600 medium and shorter-range combat and training missiles, around a third of the nuclear weapons it is due to get rid of under a superpower arms treaty, TASS said Friday. As part of the process, 24 of the country's operational missile bases were shut down. The United States has so far destroyed more than 200 missiles under the INF (intermediate-range nuclear forces) treaty, the official Soviet news agency added.

Iran makes indirect proposal for U.S. talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — An Iranian intermediary has approached the United States offering to reopen diplomatic talks between the two countries, but the State Department is holding out for "a substantive, up-front" proposal, a U.S. official said Friday. "It must come from someone in a position to make decisions," said the official in explaining why the department was cool to the offer, which was channelled through an Iranian-American professor. The U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the unidentified scholar, who teaches at a small college, was approached by an Iranian who has a low-level job in the foreign or justice ministry in Tehran.

Arafat to visit Spain in January

MADRID (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat is to visit Spain in late January as part of a European tour, a PLO spokesman said Friday. During its six-month rotating presidency of the European Economic Community that begins Jan. 1, Spain is expected to take the lead in pushing for an international peace conference on the Middle East. Hani Faydi told the AP Arafat's two-day stay "will likely take place during the last week in January," and will form part of a European tour expected to include France, West Germany and perhaps Great Britain.

Tunisia seeks Maghreb summit in new year

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia is trying to arrange a summit meeting of Maghreb heads of state early next year to promote unity plans, President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali said Friday. He told parliament the five states — Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia — made progress in 1988 towards rapprochement, integration and solidarity. The five heads of state met in Algiers in June for the first time since independence and pledged to look at ways to unite the Maghreb politically and economically. At lower-level talks in Rabat in October, Tunisia proposed a common market similar to the European Economic Community, but a decision was delayed until the next summit meeting.

Bomb kills one in Karachi

KARACHI (AP) — A homemade bomb exploded in a crowded amusement park Friday, killing a young man and injuring four other people, police said. People fled in panic from the Funland Park near the Clifton Beach recreational area. There was no immediate indication of who was responsible for the blast, which occurred at 6:15 p.m. — a time when the park is crowded with lower-income families. The site was about 1.5 kilometres from Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's family residence.

Pinochet says army will never betray him

PARIS (R) — Chilean military ruler Augusto Pinochet likened himself to the emperor Napoleon and the Roman statesman Cicero in an interview published Friday and said the army would never betray him. "What the opposition wants is for the military to hang me, to rise up against me... that's a dream," Pinochet told the French daily Le Monde. "The opposition forgets that the armed forces are very united and disciplined. They were the first to show their devotion to me after the defeat of the 'yes' in the plebiscite. What happened to me was the same as what happened to Napoleon. I don't think the army can play a dirty trick on me."

TASS: 20 injured in rebel attack on Kabul

MOSCOW (R) — About 20 people were wounded in Kabul Friday when rebels fired two shells believed to be mortar bombs into the centre of the Afghan capital, the official Soviet news agency TASS said. It said eight people, six of them children, were killed or seriously injured Thursday in separate rocket attacks in other parts of Afghanistan.

Churbanov jailed for 12 years

MOSCOW (R) — Yuri Churbanov, son-in-law of the late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, was jailed for 12 years Friday for accepting bribes worth more than \$1 million. Churbanov, 52, who was the Soviet Union's second-ranking police official from 1980 to 1984, swayed in the dock and bowed his head as Judge Mikhail Marov of the Soviet Supreme Court pronounced the sentence. Six other defendants in the trial, all senior police officials from the Central Asian Republic of Uzbekistan, were jailed for terms ranging from eight to 10 years. The case of a seventh official, Uzbekistan's former Interior Minister Khakdar Yakhyayev, was suspended for further investigation.

King expects serious peace effort in Middle East soon



HM King Hussein

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has expressed belief that the coming few months will witness the beginning of a serious attempt to solve the Middle East problem. "The world is beginning to face solving the Palestine problem, which is the most dangerous problem, and I think the world will try to solve it through an international peace conference," the King said in an interview with the London-based Arabic language magazine Al Hawadeth published Thursday.

The monarch said a number of positive elements were expected to materialise soon opening the way for more prospects to end the Arab-Israeli issue through the projected international peace conference. The King described the U.S. decision to begin a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a good start and added that the Middle East issue would be among the priorities for the Bush administration now that a dialogue between Washington and the PLO had begun.

"This dialogue will be pursued with a serious tone under the Bush administration, which is expected to make more headway in the Middle East because

the American president-elect has more experience and interest in the world problems," King Hussein said in the interview.

During George Bush's term, the U.S. be different from America during President Reagan's term, the King added. "Reagan did not care for the Middle East problem; he knew little about it but Bush, I think, has a good experience in world affairs," the King said.

King Hussein described Jordanian-Palestinian relations as strong "as they are based on mutual confidence and serious

determination to pursue joint action towards peace."

He said there was a need to support the Palestinian people and the PLO, which is their sole and legitimate representative, and Jordan will continue to support the Palestinians in every possible way.

The King said that he would try his best to solve all differences between Arab states and expressed hope that the coming summit in Saudi Arabia will deal with such differences and the reinstatement of Egypt into the Arab fold.

King Hussein called on the Arab World to stand by Iraq in its quest for peace in the Gulf and noted that the present ceasefire was not sufficient to end the eight-year war.

"We do not want an armistice between Iraq and Iran," he said. "We want a true and comprehensive peace based on mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs," he said.

The King expressed satisfaction with the latest economic measures in Jordan, which, he said, will enable the country to overcome the present circumstances and voiced hope that Arab countries would honour their financial commitments to the Kingdom.

Rifai, Qasem confer with U.S. senator

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Thursday received in his office U.S. Senator John Rockefeller and discussed with him bilateral relations as well as the latest regional and international developments, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth attended the meeting.

Petra said the West Virginia Democrat was received separately by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem who explained the Arab movement since the 1974 PLO summit, which called for a just, comprehensive and lasting peace based on Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories occupied in 1967.

Petra said that Qasem pointed to the Palestine National Council (PNC) resolutions adopted last

month in Algiers and to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's speech in Geneva in which he clearly affirmed the trend towards parting in a comprehensive peace in the region.

Qasem reiterated Jordan's support of the positive Palestinian position and welcomed the start of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, "a principle factor in creating suitable conditions for the convening of an international peace conference under U.N. auspices with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties involved in the conflict, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

Rockefeller was in Amman for a one-day private visit.

India, Pakistan open new era in relations

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Pakistan and India, for 41 years either at war or profoundly suspicious of each other, opened a new era in relations Friday.

Their young leaders, Benazir Bhutto, 35, Prime Minister of Pakistan for less than a month, and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, 44, held a first round of official talks which both sides said were the dawn of a new era.

Indian officials, however, were notably more optimistic about how quickly relations would improve between the two countries which have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947.

"I think you will find that we will move things forward in these two days more than we have in the past 11 years," said a senior official accompanying Gandhi on the first working visit to Pakistan by an Indian prime minister for 28 years.

He was referring to the 11-year rule of Pakistan's military President Muhammad Zia Ul Haq whose death in a mysterious air crash in August led to democratic elections which brought Bhutto to office on Dec. 2.

But Pakistani officials said Bhutto, the first woman elected leader of a Muslim state, faced domestic constraints which prevented her moving too quickly to improve ties.

"Within those constraints, she can move, but not too quickly," said a senior Pakistani official. Another said: "She has only been in office for a month and not all the facts (about relations with India) are in her hands. So she doesn't want to do anything too hastily."

Officials of both sides said the personal relationship between the two prime ministers got off to a



Benazir Bhutto

good start at dinner Thursday night.

They said informal talks at the dinner, attended only by Gandhi's Italian-born wife Sonia, Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari and her mother Nusrat, lasted until after midnight.

Indian officials said they hoped the two leaders would sign an agreement not to attack each other's nuclear installations. Each side is deeply suspicious of the other's claim that its nuclear programme is purely peaceful and such an accord would be a significant breakthrough.

Pakistani officials, citing Bhutto's newness in office, said they doubted the accord would be signed during Gandhi's visit for a summit meeting of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Bhutto and Gandhi met again at the residence of Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan at sundown Friday after an all-day session with other leaders at the fourth annual SAARC summit.

Qasem meets PLO delegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Thursday met with a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegation and discussed the latest developments in the Palestine question as well as efforts necessary for building an effective Arab position that would speed up the convening of an international peace conference, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Present at the meeting from the Palestinian side were PLO Executive Committee members Mahmoud Abbas, who is also head of the Palestinian side in the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for the Support of the Steadfastness of the Palestinian People, in addition to Yasser Abed Rabbo and Abdul Razzak Ad Yahya, who is also PLO representative in Amman.

During the meeting, the two sides also discussed the situation in the occupied territories and the need to continue support of the Palestinian people to ensure their steadfastness. The two parties also discussed the work of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee, which ended a two-day seminar here, and means of supporting its activities.

Qasem reaffirmed Jordan's support of the positive Palestinian developments and paid tribute to the encouraging achievements which the Palestinian issue had achieved on the international scene, PLO reported.

The PLO team left Amman later Thursday.

Polisario declares ceasefire

ALGIERS (R) — Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco in Western Sahara since 1976 have declared a truce in the desert, pending talks with King Hassan, the official Algerian news agency APS said Friday.

The agency said the guerrillas, fighting for Western Sahara's independence, decided more than a month ago to suspend all military operations.

It said the truce was one of several "concessions" made by the Polisario after its leaders agreed to meet King Hassan in Morocco to discuss the future of the disputed territory.

King Hassan, in an interview with the French magazine Le Point earlier this month, said he was willing to meet leaders of the Polisario.

PLO rules out uprising truce, Shamir project

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Friday ruled out a truce in the uprising against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, saying only a few traditionalists supported the idea.

"No one in the PLO Executive Committee or in any of the organisations will accept a truce," said Jamil Hilal, head of the PLO office in Tunis. "This is an Israeli-inspired idea."

Palestinian and Israeli sources said earlier this week that leaders of the uprising, had floated the idea of a conditional truce in exchange for concessions from Israel such as the release of detainees and free municipal elections.

But Hilal told Reuters the PLO Executive Committee, which met in Baghdad this week, decided on steps to intensify resistance to Israeli rule of the occupied territories.

"Some traditionalists like

[Bethlehem Mayor] Elias Freij may be behind such ideas (a truce) but their voices have become very muted," he said.

"The gains by the PLO have made them bend to the stronger current — the continuation and intensification of the intifada to isolate Israel further."

Freij raised the idea of a one-year U.N.-brokered truce between Israel and the PLO in an interview with the Jerusalem Post last week.

Hilal said Palestinians widely understood that the intifada was the best way to create a Palestinian state on the ground by forcing Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories.

Freij said Friday he proposed

to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu that the U.N. Security Council pass a resolution calling for a truce to end the uprising.

"I spoke about a U.N.-sponsored resolution like the one that stopped the Iran-Iraq war, and on condition that Israel releases all prisoners jailed on security charges and reopens universities," he said in an interview.

There are about 5,000 Palestinians in jail, including about 1,600 being held without trial under "administrative detention." Five Palestinian universities and 16 two-year colleges are closed.

Freij, who met with the Romanian leader two weeks ago, said he asked that the proposal be passed along to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. He said Arafat had not yet responded.

The PLO also rejected the new peace initiative of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, saying it aimed at ensuring Israeli occupation

(Continued on page 2)

3 Gazans shot dead; army closes West Bank schools

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army announced Friday three Palestinians had been killed in the occupied Gaza Strip, and 1,194 Arab schools will be shut for a week because of increased student violence in the occupied West Bank.

An army spokesman said Israeli troops shot and killed two Palestinians Thursday night in the Gaza City neighbourhood of Zeitoun. He said the two were suspected of throwing firebombs, and troops had received information about where they were hiding.

"They were ordered to come out," the spokesman said. "Then they tried to escape and were shot."

He said one suspect died at the scene, another died in an Israeli hospital and the third was arrested "unharmed."

In Gaza's Sheikh Radwan district troops opened fire on violent demonstrators with tear-gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition, killing 18-year-old Abdul Halim Bahit and wounding nine others, hospital officials said.

The army imposed curfews af-

ter stone-throwing in the Sha'ti, Jabalya, Rafah and Nuseirat refugee camps, and made several arrests after searching the area near Shifa hospital in Gaza City, Palestinians said.

The deaths took to at least 351 the number of Palestinians killed in the year-old uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In the West Bank, occupation authorities ordered all schools closed for a week because of renewed violence and to forestall protests on the anniversary Sunday of the foundation of the PLO in 1964.

The measure, which takes effect Saturday, prevents about 300,000 Palestinian school students from attending classes.

Schools in the West Bank were closed by the army last Feb. 3 for a nearly 10-month period. Authorities gradually reopened the 1,194 West Bank schools in December, but made studies conditional on the stoppage of student protests.

Army officials say schools often became centres of "instiga-

tion" and violent demonstrations in the uprising. For that reason, four universities and 16 junior colleges in the West Bank are being kept shut indefinitely.

Palestinians were protesting the closure, with educators arguing that students were losing the discipline for study and became increasingly difficult to motivate.

In a report released in November, the Palestinian-run human rights organisation Law in the Service of Man said: "By preventing Palestinian students of all ages from receiving an education, the Israeli authorities are punishing present and future generations of Palestinians."

The army, meanwhile, brought reinforcements to the West Bank and Gaza Strip in anticipation of violent protests Jan. 1, known to Palestinians as the "Fateh day," Israeli media reports said.

Two Palestinian children, Nidam and Bassam Attallah, were killed when they led a flock of sheep into a field and stepped on a land mine, Israel Radio said, adding the area had once been a mine field.

High-tech bomb said to have caused Pan Am crash

LONDON (AP) — A sophisticated device with two separate detonating systems is believed to have triggered the bomb that brought down Pan Am Flight 103, killing all 259 people on board, the Times of London reported Friday.

The newspaper said crash investigators believe the first trigger was a barometric device set off by altitude. It then activated the second trigger, an electronic timer, to make the bomb explode an hour later, the Times said.

The double detonator technique was developed by extremists after some airports started putting cargo through pressure chambers designed to detonate pressure-activated bombs before they got on the plane, the newspaper said.

A pressure chamber is used at the airport in Frankfurt, West Germany, where the Pan Am flight originated aboard a different plane, the Times said.

The newspaper was the first to report Wednesday that investigators had concluded a bomb caused the crash. The formal announcement came hours later.

On Friday, American news agencies in London received an anonymous telephone call from a man claiming to represent a pro-Iranian group called Guardians of the Islamic Revolution. A similar call the day after the crash claimed responsibility for the disaster in retaliation for the U.S. navy's downing of an Iran Air

King sends condolences

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent messages of condolences to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher expressing sympathy over the deaths caused by the crash of Pan Am Flight 103.

commercial jet with 290 people aboard last July.

Friday's caller repeated the claim of responsibility for the Dec. 21 disaster and said that unless the United States deports Reza Pahlavi, son of the late Shah of Iran, "there will be another present in the new year for America."

There was no way to immediately verify the authenticity of the call or whether it was made by the same man who called previously. Iran has denied any involvement with the crash.

As a worldwide hunt began for the extremists who planted the bomb, passengers using U.S. airlines at four British airports underwent questioning Thursday and had their baggage X-rayed in accordance with orders from Britain's Department of Transport.

Brian Jenkins, a U.S. consultant on terrorism, said key tasks for the investigators into the Pan Am disaster were to check the

background of every passenger on Flight 103 for false identities, discover whether any had connections that could make them "witting or unwitting confederates" and trace every item of cargo back to its origins.

Analysts have speculated that the bomb could have been smuggled aboard in a suitcase or into the hold by ground staff.

Washington has offered a \$500,000 reward for information leading to those responsible.

Charles Price, the U.S. ambassador to Britain, said Thursday that the U.S. government was unlikely to retaliate if the killers were identified.

However, U.S. President-elect George Bush threatened retaliation Thursday, saying he would "punish firmly, decisively, those who did this — if you can ever find them."

President Ronald Reagan, who steps down from office Jan. 20, pledged the United States would make "every effort" to discover who was responsible and bring them to justice.

A Syrian-based Palestinian group Friday denied any link to the Pan Am bombing.

A spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, described by a U.S. terrorism expert as a possible suspect, blamed the United States and Israel for the Dec. 21 crash.

"The PFLP-GC has no relation or connection with the crash," said spokesman Fadhil Shurro.

Calm reported in Khartoum after furor over prices

CAIRO (Agencies) — Sudan's news agency SUNA said calm had returned to Khartoum Friday after a general strike and mass demonstrations had paralysed the capital.

The agency, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said one person was killed and 19 people were injured when an unidentified gunman opened fire on demonstrators outside a government building Thursday.

An Egyptian official said Cairo had received a radio call saying Khartoum airport had reopened to traffic. But telephone and telex links were apparently still cut.

SUNA said the federation of trade unions had called off a general strike and was urging its one million members to return to work.

The agency said police used tear-gas Thursday to disperse crowds, which Arab news agencies earlier reported had gathered to protest against government food price increases — subse-

quently rescinded — and the civil war in the south.

It said an unspecified number of people received "non-serious" injuries.

Iraqi and Egyptian news agencies reported gunfire in Khartoum Thursday, some of it in the vicinity of the building housing the council of ministers.

The political crisis, sparked by price rises announced Monday and rescinded Thursday, came at the end of a harrowing year for Sudan.

The poverty-stricken country has faced devastating floods in the north, famine in the south which killed many thousands of civil war refugees and plagues of locusts.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, fighting to maintain a seven-month-old coalition de-

spite the resignation of one of the partners, abandoned price increases which raised the cost of sugar by 500 per cent and cigarettes by 50 per cent.

But Radio Omdurman reported that the government would honour salary increases announced last Saturday, while seeking other ways to finance them.

Arab agency reports from Khartoum had said anti-government demonstrators also demanded an end to the five-year war in the south between government troops and rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) quit the coalition government after parliament last week rejected a peace agreement which the DUP had worked out with the SPLA.

SUNA said Mahdi had accepted the departure of the DUP, the second largest grouping in the coalition after the prime minister's national Umma Party.

Released hostage sisters return to France via Libya

PARIS (Agencies) — Two French children held hostage in Lebanon for 13 months returned to France Thursday — six days after their captors, the Palestinian group commanded by Abu Nidal, first promised them freedom.

Left behind in the hands of Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) were their mother, Jacqueline Valente, five Belgians and a baby sister born in captivity.

Mario-Laure, 7, Virginie, 6, and their father, Pascal Beille, arrived at 9:13 p.m. (2013 GMT) in a special government plane at a military base in Isres, near Marseille, a spokeswoman for the Foreign Ministry said.

They came from the Libyan capital of Tripoli, where the girls were handed over to French officials.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi had called for the girls' release on Christmas eve and they were transferred to Libya.

Qadhafi, speaking Thursday about the release of the two French children, urged "liberation movements in the Middle East" to free the rest of their hostages, the Libyan news agency JANA said.

Qadhafi thanked the FRC "for releasing the two little French girls in response to the appeal I made to all those holding hostages in the Middle East to release them on the occasion of Christmas," the agency said.

It also quoted him as saying, "I regret that their mother and the other hostages were not released."

"Once again I ask the Fatah Revolutionary Council and the rest of the liberation movements in the Middle East to respond to my appeal for the release of the remaining hostages on this holy occasion."

The two girls, seized when FRC fighters boarded a pleasure yacht off the Gaza Strip in November 1987, were handed over to French envoy Leon Bouvier at the French embassy in Tripoli, Libya, earlier Thursday.

The FRC announced in November 1987 it seized them aboard their boat, the Silco, in the Eastern Mediterranean. At the time it accused them of being Jewish spies for Israel, but their families denied the espionage charge and said they were Roman Catholics.

Walid Khaled, FRC spokesman in Beirut, had announced the release of the two sisters Monday. The next day the FRC said Abu Nidal himself bade the two girls farewell at a secret post in Lebanon.

JANA reported their arrival in Benghazi, Libya, earlier Thursday, but did not say where they came from.

PLO rejects uprising truce, Shamir project

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of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted PLO spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman as saying "the PLO and the Palestinian people categorically reject the new Israeli project whose only aim is the consecration of the occupation with new false masks."

Shamir, in an interview with Reuters, said he would launch a peace initiative within two months giving Egypt the role of broker in talks with Arab states and Palestinians under superpower auspices.

He also said he would consider allowing Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to elect representatives to peace talks if they ended the uprising.

Abdul Rahman said "the repressive Israeli authority is not entitled to supervise any elections."

He demanded that the "first correct step (towards peace) is the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied territories and to replace them with U.N. forces to enable the Palestinian people to express their opinion freely and exercise their right for self-determination."

Abdul Rahman said: "The uprising will continue and it can bring down all false Zionist alternatives (for peace) and show the truth that he who wants peace must contact the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people." Referring to the 90 countries which have recognised the newly-declared independent Palestinian state, Abdul Rahman said the Israeli government "has no other alternative but to accept the Palestinian rights recognised by the world."

Shamir noted that elections in the

areas under occupation were envisaged in the 1978 Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt once a plan for Palestinian "autonomy" was negotiated.

But Abdul Rahman said "going back to the extinct formulae of Palestinian autonomy is an explicit show-off attempt by the enemy that he wants peace."

He warned against the "Zionist peace project" and said the true aim behind the initiative "is to continue the occupation and repress the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories."

Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), member of the central committee of Fatah movement, was quoted by INA as saying "the new tasks of the PLO are to escalate the uprising and continue armed struggle outside the territory where the uprising takes place, inside Palestine."

Abu Iyad said Thursday that the new Israeli government would try to direct blows to the PLO and the new Palestinian state.

Avi Pazner, spokesman for Shamir, said the premier hoped to open his initiative within two months — about the time Shamir is expected to visit Washington for talks with President-elect George Bush and other key officials.

Faisal Husseini, a leading activist, raised the possibility of a truce in the uprising and elections with Meir Tsaaban, head of Israel's socialist Mapam Party, who visited him at the Kfar Yona prison Wednesday.

Husseini, who has been jailed without trial for most of the past 18 months, was quoted by Tsaaban as supporting elections as long as they were conducted without preconditions, supervised by neutral observers and not linked to a Palestinian "autonomy" scheme as suggested by Shamir.

The Israeli concept of elections has not been clearly defined. Poles aides have suggested elections would choose a new leadership to talk with Israel about a settlement. But Shamir aides suggest elections would choose only an administrative council as part of a Palestinian "autonomy" scheme.

Husseini also suggested Palestinians may be willing to end violent demonstrations if Israel would allow peaceful expressions of nationalist feeling and cease repressive tactics. Tsaaban said Husseini believed an end to violence was possible in the context of a larger peace process.

"If we shall move towards negotiations, towards peace, towards opening channels for legitimate political activities, you can also depend on a ceasefire in the intifada," Tsaaban said.

The liberal daily Haaretz newspaper said Palestinian willingness for a truce had been conveyed to U.S. diplomats by leading figures in the occupied territories.

Daoud Kuttab, a leading Palestinian journalist, said the truce was "one of a number of ideas being floated and discussed" as a way of prodding Shamir into making realistic proposals.

Kuttab said many Palestinians felt the "natural result" of Israeli concessions — such as municipal elections and an end to expulsions — would be less violence.

But others, he said, believe the rock-throwing protests will not stop unless there is a final settlement of the Palestinian issue.



An Afghan girl wearing a sign saying "Liberty or Death" and holding a poster labelled "Defeat" marking the ninth anniversary of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

U.S. sees signs of Moscow preparing for final Afghan pullout

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has said it had "indications" Moscow was preparing to begin a final withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

"We expect the Soviets to meet their commitment... to withdraw by Feb. 15. We are aware of some indications that they are beginning to make moves that would lead to a troop withdrawal," State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said at a news briefing Thursday.

She declined to provide specifics.

The Washington Post, citing intelligence sources, reported Wednesday that evidence was mounting that Soviet forces were about to begin their final withdrawal after nine years in the country. Soviet soldiers were dismantling equipment and converging at assembly areas from which

the withdrawal could begin, it said.

Under an international accord, the Soviet Union has agreed to remove its approximately 100,000 troops by Feb. 15.

An estimated 50,000-60,000 Soviet soldiers are still in Afghanistan, U.S. officials say.

Rebels cite 'victories'

Afghan rebels, in an end of year message Thursday, reported a string of successes and called the Soviet decision to open direct talks the "first step" towards their final victory.

The Mujahedeen, who have been fighting the Kabul government and Soviet soldiers for nine years, claimed a record 16,000 government troops defeated in 1988, fourfold the number in the previous year.

"This year was also important

for the Mujahedeen politically as well as militarily. Four provincial headquarters — Sharna of Paktika, Bamyan of Bamyan, Asad Abad of Kunar and Talqan of Takhar — are under the control of freedom fighters," said their statement released in London.

"During this year the Soviet leaders started direct negotiations with the Mujahedeen, which is considered the first step towards Mujahedeen's victory."

The Mujahedeen statement said during the year they destroyed 729 tanks and armoured vehicles and captured 74 tanks, 134 armoured vehicles, 9,511 automatic rifles, 255 machine guns and 691 heavy weapons.

It said 1,157 rebels were "martyred" and 2740 injured, while 4,150 Afghan troops were captured or surrendered. Almost all the captured troops were released after being interrogated, the statement said.

Sharaa ends Iran visit after 'important' talks

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa ended a two-day visit to Iran Thursday after what he called "important talks" with Iranian authorities. Tehran Television reported.

Sharaa said that Iran and Syria would be "expanding ties in all fields," the television said. Tehran Radio said in a commentary a day earlier that the two states should try to coordinate policy in Lebanon.

Thursday's broadcast said that Sharaa was seen off by his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati. Velayati said Sharaa was informed of Iran's decision to promote ties with the southern Gulf states, and called for yet closer ties between Tehran and Damascus.

President Ali Khamenei told Sharaa upon his arrival in Tehran that "without doubt, on the international political scene, Iran and Syria enjoy a special, prominent profile, which is a very strong and positive point which can lead to yet closer ties between our two countries," Tehran Radio said.

Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani described Iran and Syria as "steadfast partners in the struggle against Israel and arrogance," the radio said.

Syria owes Iran an estimated \$2 billion for oil, and the Iranians are believed trying to collect as



Farouq Sharaa

they seek financing for their reconstruction.

Iran has been rebuilding bridges with the Gulf states, and has expressed a desire to normalise relations with Saudi Arabia.

President Hafez Al Assad has also expressed interest in mending fences with Iraq and Egypt, but no concrete steps have been taken.

Speaking on Tehran Radio, Velayati said he discussed clashes between militias in Lebanon with Sharaa and both agreed on the need to end differences between militant Muslims.

Cairo paper says Israel behind Pan Am bombing

CAIRO (R) — A semi-official Egyptian newspaper said Friday Israel was the most likely culprit in the bombing of a Pan Am jet over Scotland in which all 259 people aboard were killed.

"With Israel's record in plotting this kind of crime, which aims at eliciting suspicion toward Palestinian and Arab elements, the accusation can be immediately levelled at the real assailant, which benefits from blowing up the U.S. airliner," the newspaper Al Akhbar said.

"The first beneficiary behind the crash is that quarter which attempts, by hook or by crook, to prevent any dialogue between the United States... and the Palestine Liberation Organisation," the newspaper said in its editorial.

"It is an inhuman and immoral method which the (Israeli secret service) Mossad would not hesitate to commit without any remorse," Al Akhbar said.

Al Akhbar referred to British reports that Jews had been arrested collecting debris at the crash site and suggested they might have been removing evidence.

"This can clearly indicate, to any impartial investigator, the original perpetrator of this hideous crime," it said.

S. Yemen, U.S. said closer to formal ties

RIYADH (AP) — Contacts for restoration of diplomatic ties between the United States and South Yemen have reached "a decisive stage," the Saudi Arabian newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat reported Thursday.

The newspaper, in a report from Aden, South Yemen, quoted South Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dali as denying reports that Washington has a condition, namely that his government close down the offices of Abu Nidal, the Palestinian wanted for a string of hijackings and bombings around the world.

"There is not even an offer for Abu Nidal in Aden," the minister was quoted as saying. "I have not heard of any conditions and we do not establish relations with any state on basis of any conditions whatever their shape or form."

But the paper quoted diplomatic sources as saying that three weeks ago the Aden authorities did notify Abu Nidal's group to close their centre in South Yemen and to reduce their activities.

On the resumption of relations with Washington, Dali said "there is no impediment obstructing the restoration." He confirmed to the paper that contacts

were under way over the bilateral ties but refused to speculate on the date.

He said that as long as a reason for the rupture "were being removed," then South Yemen believed international interests necessitated that relations exist among all states.

Aden's sole condition was that there should be no interference in its internal affairs, Dali added.

South Yemen, a stronghold for the Soviet military presence in the Indian Ocean, ruptured ties with Washington in 1968 after accusing the U.S. charge d'affaires of plotting to give one faction of the ruling party the upper hand. The other wing fled for a while and when they returned, they acted against Washington.

Aden had gained independence from Britain a year earlier, with conflict persisting between the rival groups that had been fighting the British presence. Soon the ruling party became staunchly communist and the Arab World's only self-proclaimed Marxist government.

With North Yemen, Aden controls the Bah Al Mandeb straits, the gateway from the Indian Ocean to the Red Sea and the Suez Canal.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli helicopter crashes killing one

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli military helicopter crashed while laying border markers along the Egyptian frontier Thursday, killing the pilot and wounding three other soldiers, the army reported. The army said the helicopter, a Sikorsky C-58 transport, crashed several kilometres south of the border town of Rafah while dropping large stone border markers. The stones are being set along the Sinai border with the cooperation of the Multinational Force and Observers, an international group that patrols the 200-kilometre border. The largely American observer force was formed as a result of the Camp David treaty of 1979. Helicopters from the observer force flew the three wounded soldiers to Soroka hospital in nearby BeerSheva.

Son of Turkish journalist kidnapped

ISTANBUL (R) — The son of a prominent Turkish journalist is believed to have been kidnapped in Geneva by a Kurdish rebel group, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said Thursday. Mehmet Reyhan, 28, a businessman living in Luxembourg, was kidnapped sometime in the past week, his twin brother Ali told the agency in Istanbul. Ali Reyhan said he had received a call from his brother early Tuesday who only said: "This is serious, I've been kidnapped." An anonymous caller later telephoned Reyhan and demanded a ransom of five million Swiss francs (\$3.3 million) to win his brother's release. "You will never see Mehmet again if you do not pay," the caller was quoted as saying. Mehmet Reyhan is the son of Ugur Reyhan, columnist and board member of the rightwing daily newspaper Tercuman.

WFP ends airlift to southern Sudan

KAMPALA (AP) — A two-month emergency relief airlift from Uganda to the war-torn southern Sudan has ended after delivering 5,000 tons of supplies, a United Nations official said Thursday. Arthur Holdbrook, U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) officer in charge of the airlift, said the operation ended Monday after two C-130 Hercules made 280 flights from the Ugandan town of Entebbe to Juba, the largest town in southern Sudan. The operation began Oct. 26 after Kenyan truck drivers refused to drive into southern Sudan where government troops and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have been fighting. The drivers balked after an advanced convoy hit land mines. In September, WFP again tried to ferry the food by the state-owned Uganda Airlines, which also balked after SPLA gunners shot at a Boeing 707 carrying food and passengers in Juba.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-14

PROGRAMME ONE

15:00 Koran
15:50 Programme review
15:55 Children programme
17:10 News summary
18:00 Message from Iraq
18:25 Family programme
19:00 Events of 1988
19:40 Programme review
20:40 News in Arabic
21:20 Review of new programme cycle
22:10 Local news
22:55 Programme review
23:00 News in Arabic
23:15 Varieties

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Cousseau: A la Redecouverte du Monde
19:00 News in French
19:15 La Vie En Panné

19:30 News in Hebrew
20:40 News in Arabic
20:50 Paul Daniel's Magic Show
21:10 Alfred Hitchcock
21:25 Saturday Variety Show
22:40 News in English
22:50 Feature film: "I'd Rather Be Rich"

PRAYER TIMES

05:00 Fajr
06:31 Sunrise (Duba)
11:38 Dhuhur
14:23 'Asr
16:46 Maghreb
18:09 'Isa

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 631785
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church, Tel. 661757
Terzantina Church, Tel. 623366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assiout International Church Tel. 605326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 622605
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821564

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Clouds appear gradually at different altitudes and winds will be southeasterly moderate to fresh. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 1 / 9
Agaba 6 / 16
Deserts 0 / 9
Jordan Valley 8 / 17

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 48 per cent, Agaba 34 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Nabil Al Maridi 615338
Dr. Yehia Abdul Rahin 734074
Dr. Ahmed Othman 786384
Dr. Mahmoud Al Awadi 741391
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 640945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Marwan Habbab (—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy 985236

ZARQA:

Dr. Azmi Khalil (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Directorate 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 198, 891238
Blood Bank 776303
Highway Police 643402
Traffic Police 639141
Public Security Directorate 660000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 648411, 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-32000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musaber Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 777101/2
Italian, Al-Muhajra 775111/26
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 891611/15
Army, Marka 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)987632

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)273555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upptower price in fils per kg.
Apple 220 / 400
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Mukannar) 300 / 250
Beans 440 / 480
Broad beans 650 / 300
Carrots 130 / 100
Cauliflower 260 / 200
Cucumbers 190 / 120
Dates 360 / 300
Eggplant (large) 80 / 50
Eggplant (small) 200 / 150
Garlic 300 / 250
Grapefruit 160 / 120
Lemon 220 / 160
Marrow (large) 100 / 60
Marrow (small) 170 / 120
Orange (French) 340 / 300
Orange (Shamouti) 320 / 260
Oranges (local) 240 / 200
Onion (dry) 200 / 160
Pepper (hot) 280 / 220
Pepper (sweet) 260 / 200
Potato 280 / 220
Spinach 100 / 70
Tomatoes 340 / 300

Queen Noor inaugurates Irbid projects

IRBID (Petra, J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday paid a visit to the Irbid Governorate in northern Jordan and inaugurated a number of projects executed by Irbid Municipality.

The Queen formally opened two city squares and a public garden and later laid the foundation stone for a bus terminal in Irbid.

At the ceremonies Irbid Mayor Abdul Razzak Tubeishat said one of the squares, Al Sbarari Square, has been set up on a five-dunum piece of land with facilities for children to play while the other square, the Noor Al Hussein Square, has a 700 square metre area with a monument in the middle prepared by a group of Arab artists.

According to the mayor the public park consisting of a 12-dunum area, contains a children's library and was set up as a gift from Tunis Municipality to Irbid.



Irbid Mayor Abdul Razzak Tubeishat Thursday welcomes Her Majesty Queen Noor in Irbid (Petra photo)

The bus terminal, set up on a 30-dunum land, contains several buildings, a huge car park and essential services and public utilities built at the cost of JD 403,000, according to Tubeishat. He said that the new terminal can

take up to 86 large buses, 134 vehicles of medium size and 610 small cars.

The Queen started her tour of Irbid with a visit to its municipality where she heard a briefing by Tubeishat and engineers on the

municipal projects and organisational plans.

The Queen later visited Tareq Ibn Ziyad Public Garden and opened a cultural exhibition and a public garden, set up by the Irbid Development Corporation.

Prince Hassan visits Court of Justice Ministry to establish 4 new courts in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — First instance and peace courts will be established in four districts of the Greater Amman region so as to ease pressure on the main Court of Justice in Amman, and save time and effort for parties involved in court cases, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Justice.

The announcement said also that several commercial courts will be set up to deal with problems emanating from trade and investments and offer speedy services to both Jordanians and foreigners.

The announcement was made Thursday following a visit to the Court of Justice in downtown Amman by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who inspected the different sections of the court and was briefed on the problems encountered due to the enormous number of cases.

Prince Hassan chaired a meeting of judges during which a working paper, covering detailed questions related to court business, was reviewed.

The paper called for the establishment of other courts of justice

in the Amman region to facilitate the work of justice.

Prince Hassan said Jordan is well known for the independence of its judiciary system "which should be promoted to offer even a better service to the public."

A decision was taken at the meeting to form a committee, comprising officials from the Ministry of Justice, the Jordanian Bar Association, the Faculty of Law at the University of Jordan and the Jordanian Judicial Council, to carry out recommendations contained in the working paper as soon as possible.

The committee will also look into means of upgrading court procedures and establishing specialised libraries at Jordanian courts.

Minister of Justice Riad Al



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan tours different sections of the main Court of Justice (Petra photo)

Shakaa, Minister of Health Zuhair Malhas, Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawab

deh, the judicial council president and the bar association president were present at the meeting.

Tunis seeks to boost trade with Jordan

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

TUNIS — Tunisia plans to put forward an idea of setting up permanent trade fairs for Jordan and Tunisia in each other's capital during the coming meeting of the joint Jordanian-Tunisian Trade Committee, so as to open the way for further development in trade exchanges between the two sides, according to Tunisian Minister of Industry and Trade Al Munsef Baleid.

Such fairs are bound to offer the Jordanian and Tunisian public a chance to inspect manufactured products and enable merchants to decide on commodities they find fit for the markets in their own countries, the minister said in an interview with the Jordan Times in Tunis.

Jordanian-Tunisian trade, he said, now stands at \$15 million annually, but by mounting such fairs, and through the efforts of the joint committee, it is hoped that the figure will rise to more than \$30 million in the coming stage.

In its drive to promote bilateral trade, the committee faces two unfavourable factors: A relatively small population in Jordan and Tunisia and the production by each country of similar products which is not helpful towards

achieving economic integration, the minister noted.

But, he added, the two sides are determined to boost their trade and commercial links, and "have granted each other a 40 per cent exemption of fees on imported products from either side — a real incentive to develop trade."

Furthermore, the Jordanian and Tunisian governments have been organising week-long Tunisian and Jordanian fairs that helped each country to make a \$25 million revenue from sales of national products," he said.

They have opened trade centres in Amman and Tunis, each to sell \$5 million worth of national products every year, Baleid said.

The Tunisian minister said the two sides decided to hold annual meetings in Amman and Tunis for ministers concerned in the development of trade, so as to re-examine the trade situation and offer further incentives and facilities in this respect.

The minister said that the new government in Tunis was bent on creating a favourable climate in the country for investment, and at the same time it is taking measures designed to promote the quality of services and encouraging free enterprise in all matters related to trade and economy.



Armed Forces Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleh Thursday receives the team of army officers who will join the U.N. peacekeeping forces in Angola (Petra photo)

Jordanians to join U.N. peace force in Angola

AMMAN (Petra) — A team of Jordanian army officers has been chosen to work within the U.N. peacekeeping force in Angola to supervise the withdrawal of Cuban forces from the African country.

The team, the first ever by an Arab country to take part in such mission, met with Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleh in his office to discuss the force's duties.

The Jordanian officers will be joining others from India, Congo, Argentina, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Spain and Norway.

The inclusion of Jordanian army officers in the U.N. force came upon a request by the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.



Minister of Agriculture Yousef Hamdan Al Jabr attends the swearing in of a new batch of veterinarians (Petra photo)

New vets sworn in

AMMAN (Petra) — A number of Jordanian veterinarians were sworn in here Thursday before Minister of Agriculture Yousef Hamdan Al Jabr, the Jordanian Veterinarians Association (JVA) president and other officials.

The minister delivered a brief speech at the swearing in ceremony held at the JVA headquarters in which he reviewed the veterinary work in Jordan and its contribution to the development of animal wealth.

"Jordan is in dire need of the veterinarians in order to preserve and develop its animal wealth, to raise safe and healthy animals and eliminate diseases common

to man and animals," the minister said.

He called for a comprehensive plan to spread and promote veterinary education and a long term strategy for the JVA to help carry out this project.

The minister also called on the JVA board to bolster cooperation with similar associations in Arab and foreign countries, and to exchange expertise and information with them to benefit the veterinarians in Jordan.

Representatives of companies selling veterinary medicine and a number of Jordanian veterinarians attended the ceremony.



Saudi minister of Haj ends visit

Saudi Arabian Minister of Haj and Awqaf Abdul Wahab Al Wasee and his accompanying delegation left Amman Thursday at the end of a six-day visit to Jordan during which they were received by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The Saudi visitors also had meetings with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and other Jordanian officials.

affairs, Islamic seminars and conferences. In a pre-departure statement the Saudi minister said King Hussein gave his blessings to a conference by awqaf ministers in Arab and Islamic countries which is due to be held in Saudi Arabia in the coming year. The Saudi minister was seen off by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and other Jordanian officials.

Turkish team to discuss passage of pilgrims

AMMAN (Petra) — A Turkish delegation is due here Tuesday to discuss arrangements for the passage of Turkish Muslim pilgrims through Jordanian territories on their way to the holy places in Mecca and Medina.

This was revealed by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs following a meeting that discus-

sed the question of allowing Turkish pilgrims to go through Jordanian territory in the coming pilgrimage season.

The meeting, chaired by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, discussed facilities and services to be offered to the pilgrims, their stay in Jordan on their way to Saudi

Arabia and back and other matters related to the pilgrimage.

Ministers of transport and telecommunications, health and interior, as well as Greater Amman mayor, the Customs Department director and representatives of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs were present at the meeting.

40% of incomes spent on food

AMMAN (Petra) — A year-long survey conducted by the Department of Statistics in Amman on the Jordanian families' expenditures revealed that up to 40 per cent of the income is being spent on food, seven per cent on clothing and shoes, 28 per cent on housing and 25 per cent on services and others.

The survey conducted over the last year was the first by the

department since 1980, according to department Director Abdul Hadi Alawin.

Alawin said the survey covered 2,377 families from various sectors of the Jordanian society and the samples were picked out at random from urban and rural regions in all governorates. The questionnaires distributed to the families in the survey sought to know income standards, expendi-

tures on different commodities and housing, education and the various professions and trades of family members, according to Alawin.

He said the 1980 survey revealed that families in Jordan spent up to 43 per cent on food supplies whereas the 1987 survey showed a drop in this area to 40 per cent.

Hindawi visits examination halls

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi and ministry officials Thursday visited examination halls around the country, where Tawjihi students are currently taking their mid-year examinations, and were assured that examinations were progressing in a satisfactory manner.

Hindawi visited Al Hashimi, Al Taj and Al Ashrafieh examination halls, all of which are located within the Greater Amman area, and discussed with ministry officials the nature of questions set for the students and the suitable atmosphere at the examination halls that can help students do their best and ensure a calm atmosphere.

A total of 58,618 students are taking the Tawjihi examinations, which ends on Jan. 10, 1989.

The Ministry of Education, which organised the examinations, have made available a total of 768 halls in different governorates of which 254 halls are in the Amman region alone.



Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi Thursday visits a Tawjihi examination hall in Amman (Petra photo)

Lambaz's works reflect individual technique of blending colours

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — On exhibition at the Alia Art Gallery this week are the popular and attractive pastel drawings of facets of Jordanian life by Farouk Lambaz.

Since his last exhibition in Amman in 1984, Lambaz has gone on to refine his technique — that of cutting through the colours and the lines to produce an impressionistic, busy effect, now the hallmark of his pieces — to create work that is essentially the same but finer in detail and more acutely observed.

ART REVIEW

It is when Lambaz draws from life that he achieves his most memorable pieces like his drawing of "The Gate." This very typical ancient arched limestone doorway is caught in all its details complete with a pile of sticks and rusty gallon can — the remains of some construction work — lying by the side amidst rough grass. Drawn meticulously and carefully with every shadow faithfully reproduced, the image would perhaps be like that of any skilled artist but with Lambaz's special technique the scene captures a certain quality of Jordanian light, the shimmering heat of the summer, the muted colours, the sense of quiet abandonment.

The same is true of "Deir Abu Sa'id" another study of an old doorway that Lambaz has used as an excuse to capture the play of shadows. Here deep purples vie with the blue of the painted wooden door over which hangs an old conifer whose green branches are laced with the brown of last year's twigs and leaves.

These latter two pieces are slightly typical of Lambaz's work for usually the artist includes a traditionally dressed figure in his scenes. In drawings like "A Village House" these figures — in this case a beautifully rendered bedouin man leaning on his stick — lend character as well as certain emotions like the sense of pride and continuity to the image. This, like "The Shop," a study of a typical downtown roadside store with all its good from lutes to birdcages hung around the entrance, are still drawings of buildings, despite human presence, whereas pieces like "The Guard" and "Fanis" are studies of people. Acutely observed and patiently drawn in rich as well as deep colours that balance and echo one another, these two works manage to catch the es-



One of the paintings by Farouk Lambaz on display at Alia Art Gallery.

ence of the sitters unlike some of Lambaz's smaller portrait studies.

Although Lambaz's very individual technique of blending the colours works well it does have its limitations. When used in landscapes it gives the idea of long grass covering the ground rather than sand and stones which in many cases it is supposed to represent. Even when it does represent grass, as in pieces like "Marj Al Hamam," it is too

romantically verdant even for a Jordanian spring. Jordan has its own very special set of colours which Lambaz captures exactly in his studies taken from life, like the exceptional "The Village" and "Abu Shaker," but which in his more imaginative pieces like "Spring II" he fails to reproduce.

These however make up a very small proportion of what is otherwise a very enjoyable exhibition. The exhibition runs until Jan. 5, 1989.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Friends of Plastic Art in Gulf countries at the National Gallery.
- ★ The youth's art exhibition which displays 101 paintings showing the different aspects of social life in Jordan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Farouk Lambaz at Alia Art Gallery — 5:30 p.m.
- ★ The Jordanian plastic art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture on Jordanian director Adnan Al Ramahi's T.V. films on Jordan at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A Chinese film entitled "The Bureau Head's Boyfriend" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

For couples & families
at NEW YEAR EVE

MARS

Discotheque

TYCHE HOTEL

Entrance fees
JD 10/- person

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation, established 1975.

جوردين تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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Let's find the real culprits

NOW that it has been unanimously determined that the crash of Pan Am Flight 103 last week was due to a high explosive bomb placed in the cargo of the jetliner, there is a mounting international effort to apprehend the culprits and punish them accordingly. Just as the catastrophic earthquake in Armenia few weeks ago mobilised international efforts to save humanity there from the devastating destruction, there is now another occasion for international fellowship in the aftermath of the Pan Am crash to mobilise with a view to apprehending the guilty individuals behind that atrocity against humanity and deal them the appropriate punishment.

Such an international effort to succeed must be truly international and no country must spare an effort to put an end to this type of violence and terrorism against humanity. And much more important than arresting the actual perpetrators of this affront and crime against humanity, is to identify the country or party which stood behind this act of terrorism. There are already several hypotheses advanced to explain this horrendous act. The highest probability points, as it should be, to the side which stands to profit most from the crash. Judging from the Israeli panic at the beginning of the American-Palestinian talks in the wake of the PLO's acceptance of the U.S. conditions for the start of such talks, and on the strength of past experiences with the Israeli state duplicity and complicity in acts of state terror to attain certain political objectives in various parts of the world, one must most certainly entertain the thought that Israel may have stood behind the Pan Am crash to tarnish the image of the Palestinians, derail the American-Palestinian talks and nip them in the bud. The fact that some ultra-rightist Jewish individuals were caught at the scene gathering fragments of the crashed jetliner casts additional doubts about the innocence of Israel in the crash. To be sure and fair there could be other parties apart from Israel which have developed vested interests in undermining the American-PLO talks in their infant stage. In view of the fact that the conspiratorial hands behind the crash were so sophisticated and have programmed the crash to occur over the ocean rather than over Scotland in order to conceal and obliterate all traces of evidence, one must hold final judgement till the international search for the real culprits comes to fruition.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

ALL three Jordanian Arabic dailies Friday discussed His Majesty King Hussein's statements in Al Hawadeth magazine published in London that tackled the Palestine question along with issues of concern to the Arab nation.

Al Ra'i daily said the monarch's statements have focused more light on the current developments in our region and projected optimism that the coming few months will witness a serious attempt to find a just solution for the Palestinian problem. The King, who expressed determination to pursue efforts to remove all differences among Arab countries, said that an Arab summit meeting in Saudi Arabia would tackle the Lebanese question, pan-Arab support for Iraq's quest for peace in the Gulf and pave the way for a lasting peace in the Middle East, the paper noted. It said the King has made it clear that while the world is awaiting a positive step from Washington under the new administration the Arab World is paving the ground for any favourable development taking measures to bolster inter-Arab relations and maintain the spirit of consensus and agreement which emerged from the Amman summit meeting of 1987.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily, columnist Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that President Mubarak's visit to Israel is unlikely to take place simply because Cairo had linked that visit to one important condition: That the Israeli government open a dialogue with the PLO to pave the way for a lasting settlement. The writer notes that the Israelis have welcomed the idea of Mubarak visiting Tel Aviv but they should not forget that Egypt today is different from that under President Sadat and that Cairo is more oriented towards supporting the causes of its Arab nation than maintaining good ties with Israel. The time has gone when Tel Aviv used to consider Egypt as a different party from the Arabs and dealt with Cairo accordingly, the writer continues. He says Cairo is not only in a position to serve its own nation but is indeed capable of exercising real pressure on Israel to change its stand, accept the PLO as a partner in the peace process and pave the way for a lasting peace.

Al Dustour daily described the King's interview with Al Hawadeth magazine as comprehensive and covering all issues in the Arab political arena. The King considered the latest developments in the region as very favourable and a healthy sign, pointing to the fact that the Arab nation has now overcome many obstacles and is ready to forge ahead with a greater force to regain its stance among the nations of the world, the paper said. The paper echoed the King's views that the PLO's adoption of a moderate stand and the opening of the door for peaceful negotiations have prompted the U.S. to decide on a dialogue with the organisation to pave the ground for peace. The paper said that the favourable situation in the Arab region, coupled with strenuous efforts on the Arab side to reach a lasting settlement, can and should be able to attain fruitful results.

For its part Sawt Al Shaab daily described the King's statements as giving a true image of the present situation in the Arab World and shedding more light on the future developments. The paper reiterated the King's statement that the PLO's recent moves have helped to win over further world public support for the Palestinian cause and removed a big burden in the path of peace. The Palestinian initiative, the paper added, has really opened the way for the convening of an international conference to establish peace and helped to push Israel into further isolation from the rest of the world.

A milestone in Palestinian history

YASSER Arafat's Stockholm statement was a milestone in the history of the Palestine problem. It opened the way to a two-state solution which seems the only alternative to further decades of conflict. He deserves full credit. Many outside sympathisers with the Palestinian people have impatiently urged this course for years and it is true the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman has often given an impression of Machiavellian ambiguity which his enemies have been able to exploit. Yet it is now surely obvious that he had to wait until he received the endorsement of a majority of the Palestine National Council as the only way to avoid the disintegration of his movement.

It is little use saying he should have shown more courageous leadership. Palestinian democracy, a unique and genuine product of the Palestinian people, does not work in this way. Now it does not matter that many of those who approved the Algiers resolu-

tions which effectively authorised Arafat to make the Stockholm declaration remain wholly sceptical. As they have openly said, they only accepted the majority view in the certain knowledge that moderation would not work and that the PLO would be forced to return to the strategy and objectives of the National Charter — that is continuous armed struggle for the total liberation of all Palestine. The essential fact is that a compromise political solution as opposed to an absolutist military solution has been clearly endorsed by one side.

At first sight it might seem that the sceptics have already been proved correct in view of Shultz's extraordinary rejection of Arafat's U.S. visa and various statements from the U.S. and Israel that the Algiers and Stockholm declarations were either inadequate or pure propaganda. One leading Arab editorialist, although no blinkered rejectionist, has argued that even if

the Palestinians were to bow down before Shamir and ask him to put his foot on their necks he would still want to kick them into the desert. His conclusion was the familiar one that "what has been taken by force can only be regained by force."

Fortunately, such pessimism (or optimism according to the point of view) is not yet justified. Firstly, the refusal of Arafat's visa — a decision which seems to have been taken by Shultz alone — provoked a remarkable worldwide reaction in Arafat's favour. The Swedish foreign minister embraced him on both cheeks. Then the attempts to quibble over the wording of Arafat's declarations are becoming increasingly desperate and absurd to all but the most prejudiced. Questions such as whether acceptance of a "Jewish state (Israel)" alongside a Palestinian state means recognition now appear frivolous. The tired formula of the need for the Palestinians to accept Israel's "right to

exist" has almost been dropped. Any minimally fair-minded person must see that no Palestinian can accept that Israeli immigrants have a "right" to occupy land his own people have lived on for centuries. It is enough that he should accept the fait accompli for the sake of peace.

Moreover the Israelis have demonstrated that they are quite as capable of shooting themselves in the foot as the Palestinians have been prone to do. The large-scale commando raid south of Beirut not only patently failed to achieve its real objective but shocked and angered even Shultz, Israel's most powerful gentle friend. The British government's reversal of its previous extraordinary decision not to allow the Foreign Office Minister William Walgrave to meet Bassam Abu Sharif was probably prompted by Stockholm but it would have been confirmed by the Israeli raid which occurred 12 hours earlier and certainly contributed to the obvious success of the encounter.

As Europe painfully steels itself, with notable British reluctance, to the fact that it must undertake greater responsibility even if it means disagreement with Washington, it is essential that it should co-ordinate its efforts with the Soviet Union. The fact that Gorbachev is so heavily absorbed with the process



of detente with the U.S. is an advantage rather than the reverse. Friendly pressure is more effective than the hostile variety. But it must be sustained during 1989 when the Bush administration gets into its stride — Middle East International.

Sri Lankan president faces insurgencies, delicate ties

By Dan Biers
The Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa will be an embattled president from the moment he takes office on Jan. 2, facing two violent insurgencies at home and an uneasy relationship with regional superpower India.

Opposition accusations that he won the presidency by fraud could make his task of unifying a nation divided by political and ethnic rivalries even more difficult.

If the opposition gets its way, the election will be nullified and Premadasa will not become president.

Premadasa must try to end the ethnic bloodshed that has killed nearly 10,000 people on this tropical Indian Ocean island since 1983, when Tamil minority extremists began an insurgency to win independence from the majority Sinhalese.

Sinhalese extremists belonging to the People's Liberation Front have since launched their own campaign of terror to undermine the government.

They oppose the 1987 peace accord with New Delhi that provides limited autonomy to Tamils and places 47,000 Indian peacekeeping troops on Sri Lanka's soil to prevent renewed fighting.

Premadasa, the candidate of the ruling United National Party (UNP), won Monday's election with 50.4 per cent of the vote. He immediately appealed to the Sinhalese extremist group to join the democratic process by contesting February parliamentary elections, the first in 11 years.

He had laid the groundwork for such an appeal during the campaign, when he took pains not to blame the People's Liberation Front for violence widely attributed to the group.

If the extremists refuse, the new president could decide a relentless crackdown is the only solution, hoping the bulk of Sri Lanka's 16 million people would support such a move as the best way to restore law and order.

A rebuff of the overture by the extremists would make people "more likely to back him if he decides to go out and do some bashing," said a Western diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The front, which nearly toppled the government in November with a boycott that has since lost steam, has given no indication of its next move.

It remains to be seen whether the front's power was diminished by the presidential elections, which the group had vowed to undermine.

The insurgency of Tamil separatists in the north east, meanwhile, has yet to be quelled de-

spite the positioning of Indian troops to enforce the 1987 accord that grants some autonomy to the minority group that comprises 18 per cent of the population.

Premadasa says he wants the unpopular Indian soldiers to leave, but reality might require they stay.

India, which has become more active as a regional superpower under Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, remains dedicated to keeping its troops in place until the Tamil separatist insurgency is quashed.

And if the Indian troops were to withdraw from the north while Sinhalese extremists remained active in the south, the Sri Lankan Armed Forces would be spread too thinly to deal with both uprisings.

One possible solution would be a token withdrawal of some Indian troops that Premadasa could use as proof of progress on his pledge.

Quelling the insurgencies could help him tackle the other huge problem he faces — a national economy left in shambles by the violence.

The fighting not only has devastated the island's crucial tourism industry but has cut into agricultural production as well.

In 1987, for example, adverse weather and civil disturbances were largely responsible for an 11 per cent decline in rubber production and 25 per cent drop in coconut production, the two top crops after tea.

Premadasa comes from a humble background and has vowed to better living standards in this impoverished country, where the per-capita income is \$360 a year.

He has proposed a welfare programme under which many Sri Lankan families would qualify for \$75 a month in benefits for two years.

But he hasn't said where the government would come up with the money.

Still, the president-elect's populist pitch, upcoming parliamentary elections that many political parties have long demanded and the widespread desire for law and order all could work in Premadasa's favour as he grapples with the daunting task of resurrecting Sri Lanka.

"It is a time when there can be a new beginning," the Western diplomat said.

Blocking the message of peace

By Hillel Bardin

I WRITE these lines as an Israeli who has heard Palestinians trying to give us a message of peace, a message which our government is trying desperately to block.

In the course of reserve duty in Jericho this year I met Palestinian residents who convinced me that they and their people are ready for peace based on two states, with the 1967 Green Line as the approximate border. (Until then I had believed, as do most Israelis, that the Palestinians' goal is to wipe out Israel.) So I embarked on a project under "Peace Now" to bring Israelis to Palestinian homes in various West Bank towns, to discuss first hand what our goals are.

The official response to such encounters raises many questions. Why do the army and the security services oppose them? Why must we hide them? Why are people who participate called in for investigation? Why does the military governor call a host in and warn him not to receive Israelis in his home? Why is it dangerous for Palestinians to discuss peace with Israelis?

Last Sunday the people of Beit Sahour invited Israelis from "Peace Now" and "Israelis by Choice" to a unforgettable meeting in their church hall, in which the mayor and 500 residents stated unequivocally that they want to live with us in peace. Isn't this what we Israelis have waited to hear for 40 years?

Then why did the army (which knew of the proposed meeting from wiretaps on participants' telephones) close off all the approaches to Beit Sahour to prevent the meeting? Why did the group numbering some 15 private cars have to take back roads to arrive, like thieves in the night? Why were the Israelis, including former army chief education officer Mordechai Bar-On and MK Ran Cohen, himself a reserve brigade commander, treated like some subversive group when they are loyal citizens

seeking to advance Israel's peace efforts at the grass-roots level?

Why, after the orderly meeting concluded and the army first became aware of its existence, did the commander peremptorily order the Israelis to leave within five minutes, and why did the soldiers record the license numbers of all the Israeli cars? Why was the Israel TV crew (which Gil Sadan had arranged in order to cover the encounter) forbidden by the TV authorities from filming it, so that only foreign TV crew recorded the happening? And why, each time that Jordan TV and radio broadcast the description of the events, was Beit Sahour's electricity momentarily disrupted so the residents could not hear the report?

How have we changed our language to confuse our people? Why do we call the Palestinian flag — which dates back to the 1930s, the "PLO flag"? Since we define the PLO exclusively as a terrorist organisation, we assume that anyone displaying the flag is calling for our destruction. But ask the youths who display the flag, and they will tell you that it symbolises their yearning for a state just like ours, not in place of ours.

Similarly, when Palestinians sing their anthem, "Biladi," or make a "V" with their fingers, we assume they are calling for our destruction, while they see it, today, as a call for the state which will replace the occupation.

We have many words which are designed to confuse. If a person encourages people at a non-violent demonstration to chant slogans for national independence, we call him an "inciter" and the demonstration is a "disturbance." Regulations call for officers to shoot "inciters" in the legs, even if they committed no violent act.

Is the army non-political? Our people and the Knesset are divided as to what should be done with the occupied territories. Most of us agree that Israel must continue to perform police functions until a political solution is reached. But the army goes way beyond policing — it is the prin-

cial instrument of the repression of an occupied people's national aspirations, not distinguishing between violent and non-violent forms of expression.

When I served my second tour of reserve duty in the intifada, in Ramallah, I was sent to prison for reasoning with two respected educators in the city to explore possibilities of rechanneling youths' protests from their (mildly) violent actions to non-violent actions which, though banned by the occupation regulations, could give the people a legitimate, democratic avenue for expressing their wishes. But the last thing that the government wants Israelis to see is that there are reasonable people on the Palestinian side, so the response was to send me to prison and to warn subsequent reservists in Ramallah against talking with Palestinians.

Why is it that permission is denied for joint Israeli-Palestinian demonstrators? Why did a leading civil liberties lawyer tell me, when I asked whether we could appeal to the High Court of Justice to get a permit, that he wouldn't bother to try, the High Court today being a rubber stamp for the military authorities?

Last Sunday in Beit Sahour not a single stone was thrown. The lesson of Beit Sahour is clear: Palestinians prefer an intifada of words and reason over an intifada of violence. Our government, which opposes the compromise of two states for two peoples, and which opposes U.N. Resolution 242 which calls for withdrawal from territories acquired by Israel in the 1967 war, will do everything in its power to prevent us from seeing that the chance for peace is here now.

Will we Israelis hear the Palestinian call for peace, or will we allow our government to stop our ears, seal our eyes, and dull our minds? — The Jerusalem Post.

The writer served a sentence in military prison in September for contacts with Palestinians during his reserve service.

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فندق عمان انترناتيونال

A Greek scandal of romance, and political chaos

By William Scobie

AS SOCIALIST Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, who has dominated Greek politics for a decade, enjoys the seclusion of a villa in the company of his blonde mistress — an air hostess half his age — the worst financial and political scandal since World War II is tearing his administration to pieces, threatening to plunge Greece into chaos.

His friends are on the run; his enemies are closing in. Two more ministers walked out of the government recently, bringing the total to seven in as many weeks. How long can Papandreu last? What will happen next? These were the questions hanging over Greece, while Papandreu remained closeted with 34-year-old Dimitra Liani. Angry critics are likening Liani to Eva Peron, claiming that she is leading the prime minister — and Greece — by the nose.

This criticism may be unfair. The charismatic and autocratic Papandreu is a shadow of his former self, and his heart specialist is in constant attendance, complete with a portable resuscitation unit.

Having publicly discarded his American wife Margaret after 37 years, he is now emotionally dependent on a tough-minded, healthy young woman who keeps trouble away from the gates of their "lovenest" outside Athens.

The sorriest aspect of this bizarre affair may still be to come. Papandreu has carried the persecuted left back into the mainstream of Greek politics after half a century of civil war, right-wing despotism and military dictatorship; bringing some sort of democracy back to its birthplace. Now there could be an end to reform. There is talk of unrest in the officer corps and a bitter scent of public betrayal and anger in the smoggy air of Athens.

Yet only six months ago, Papandreu's Pasok Socialist Party, which he founded himself and led to victory, was riding a wave of popularity that promised it a third landslide win at the polls. How could things go so wrong?

"It all stems from Mimi Liani,"

says former Economy Minister Yannis Arsenis. "That's when the rot began. Now only a miracle can save the party before the elections next June. Andreas must give up this woman, retire and go back to his wife and children."

But Papandreu, sick and fretful, will have none of that. "I am the prime minister," he says. "I am the party. Anyone who disagrees with me can go." It is just two years since Papandreu met "the woman in the case." On an official trip to China, he and his wife were charmed by the bright, pretty, attentive Mimi, their Olympic Airways stewardess. Margaret Papandreu helped Mimi find a TV job: "She became a friend — almost one of the family."

Papandreu's infatuation became public property last summer. Failing to attend an earthquake memorial service owing to "pressure of work," he was photographed with a topless Mimi on a private yacht in the Aegean. His wife was not on board.

Then, when he was flown to London in October for a major heart operation, he was accompanied not by his wife, but by Mimi. He announced that he intended to marry his twice-divorced mistress, who was pictured wheeling him about during his recuperation. He left behind no deputy in Athens, and in his lucid moments decisions were reached in consultation with Mimi.

Back in Greece in November, supposedly fighting for his political life, Papandreu said on TV that his enemies were being instigated from abroad — a covert reference to the CIA's role in putting the Greek colonels into power in 1967.

Thousands rushed to Pasok headquarters for a crisis meeting and spent a sleepless night waiting for the leader. Next day they learned that Papandreu, defying doctors' orders, had slipped off with Mimi to a nightclub.

Then came the EC Summit in Rhodes in early December, with Papandreu presenting Mimi to assembled European leaders as the First Lady of Greece.

Shock

The Greek nation is in shock, with new sensations daily and no apparent end to the scandals. Newspapers are covered with pictures of Mimi's topless poses and scabrous jokes about the pair. Sample: Andreas has invented a new Kama Sutra position — "one foot in the grave."

Mimi is accused of having introduced Papandreu to a 34-year-old Greek banker, George Koskotas, from New York. Koskotas was, she said, the kind of dynamic money wizard needed to vitalise the Greek economy.

A hulking young man with a wife and five children, Koskotas has secured a job in the Bank of Crete, one of the leading private lenders. In three years he became its owner. His dynamism was further displayed by creating, almost overnight, an empire of six newspapers, the most up-to-date printing works in Europe, a star soccer team and a broadcasting station — all this during a period of Socialist rule, which his newspapers warmly supported.

He became the new star in the Greek firmament, employing dozens of aides from Pasok, among them the former cabinet secretary and the administration's former chief spokesman. Politicians flocked to his parties — including Papandreu, with Mimi on his arm.

Where had all this money come from? In the teeth of government obstruction, an enquiry was opened in October. It emerged that Koskotas was wanted in the U.S. for alleged tax fraud, and that he had earlier been convicted and fined for forgery. He had been allowed to leave for Greece only on payment of \$1m. bail.

Corruption

Incredibly, Koskotas was allowed to remain as head of the Bank of Crete while, behind the scenes, top men at the Bank of Greece — the watchdogs of Greek banking — urged that he be ordered to step down, complaining that two senior ministers had attempted to stop the audit of his bank.



Liani and Papandreu in Rhodes

Brazil, but was arrested in Rio and deported to the U.S., where he now sits fighting a deportation order.

The Greek opposition claims that Pasok leaders worked for Koskotas and profited hugely from his largesse. Under pressure to clean up his act, the unhappy Papandreu has reshuffled his cabinet, but in such a way as to keep his most tainted colleagues in office.

If a general election were held tomorrow, a demoralised Pasok would lose by a margin of two to one. "Does Papandreu read the polls?" asked one Pasok member of parliament.

London Observer

Egypt battles tradition in fight against Nile-borne disease

By Sara El Gammal
Reuter

CAIRO — Egyptian authorities are striving to get millions to quit an ancient tradition — using the river Nile and its canals for washing, drinking and urinating. A well-known Egyptian actor tells millions of television viewers at least three times a day: "As long as you turn your back on the canal, Bilharzia will never occupy your body."

"Bilharzia is most widespread among youngsters and especially in the countryside. We want to teach them not to urinate in the water as it is one of the principal ways of spreading the infection," Saleh El Haq, undersecretary at the ministry of health, told Reuters.

Bilharzia, a water-borne disease long present in Egypt — signs of it have been found in Pharaonic mummies — has become the country's number one health problem.

The advertisement is part of a government bid to teach people about a danger that saps individuals, and the economy, of strength.

10 million infected

Haq said that about 10 million infected Egyptians suffer from internal bleeding, liver and kidney malfunctions, bladder cancer, sterility, brain damage and eventual death.

None of that worries Om Nagib. To her, the Nile is an open-air kitchen, laundry and bathroom.

She lives on a rural island in the Nile called Geziret Bein El Bahrain, about 3 kilometres from central Cairo.

Standing barefoot in murky water up to her calves, Om Nagib washed greasy utensils, clothes and freshly picked radishes.

God protects

Asked if she was scared of getting Bilharzia, she said: "No. The advertisements say give your back to the canal. This is a sea, not a canal. I'm safe. God protects us."

Geziret Bein El Bahrain, which

means "the island between the two seas," provides 11 of 15 Bilharzia patients for a nearby Institute for Research on Tropical Diseases.

Many people are unaware they have Bilharzia, despite symptoms which include a burning sensation while urinating and blood in stools.

Haq said about a fifth of the country's 53 million people suffer from Bilharzia but some doctors put the figure at between 25 and 35 million people.

"Bilharzia is Egypt's number one problem... the reason for this

"Bilharzia is Egypt's number one problem... the reason for this campaign is that we want to concentrate on educating the patient, who is the sole source of infection."

campaign is that we want to concentrate on educating the patient, who is the sole source of infection," said Haq.

He particularly wants children, who spend hot summer months swimming in the river and canals, to learn how the disease is transmitted and how to prevent it.

Bilharzia, carried by a tiny flat worm that breeds in sluggish fresh water, was named after West German scientist Theodor Bilharz, who identified it in Cairo in 1851.

In a life-cycle of about three months, worm eggs pass from man to water, hatch into larvae, and then penetrate, grow and multiply in snails. After leaving the snails, they find human hosts and penetrate the skin.

The worms travel into the urinary tract, liver or spleen where they feed on blood. There the female worms lay up to 3,000 eggs a day.

Haq said they had used chemicals to destroy the snails, but they were costly, not very effective and killed fish.

The only effective way to break

the worm's life cycle, he said, was to prevent the eggs from reaching fresh water by stopping people from urinating in the river.

In addition to the human cost of Bilharzia, Haq said the economy suffered from lower efficiency in the workforce and the financial burden of research and free treatment.

Although there is no known vaccine for Bilharzia, there could be one by the turn of the century.

Last month, the United States signed an agreement with Egyptian officials for a \$39.6 million grant over 10 years mainly to find a vaccine for the disease.

Meanwhile, a new one-dose drug has been developed which kills the worms and eggs and has minimal side-effects. It is now available without cost at out-patient clinics.

The television advertisements stress the new treatment needs only four tablets instead of painful injections and is not time-consuming.

"Because the side-effects from the injections were great, many patients did not continue the treatment," said Zein El Abedeen, director of an institute named after Bilharz.

A doctor who has helped dozens of Bilharzia patients said the television campaign had succeeded in drawing many more people to clinics for treatment.

"But what is the use of treatment if as soon as they are cured, they go back into the canals. We are blowing in a torn balloon," said doctor Ahmed Hussein.

But trying to change entrenched social habits, even if people are given sanitation and hygiene facilities, is a difficult task.

Most inhabitants of Geziret Bein El Bahrain have water-pumps outside their mud and brick houses. They choose not to use them.

"The water from the pump is rancid, it's very bad. I don't use it. I prefer water from the river," said Om Nagib.

Om Hani, also from the island, has two children with Bilharzia, and said they got it from their school in the city.

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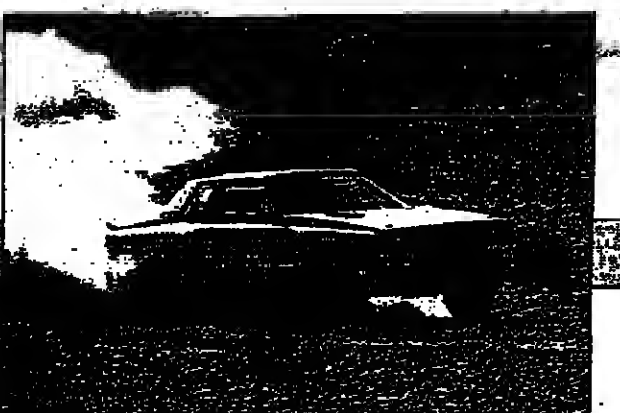
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Possible rise by end of year

Dollar likely to hit new lows in 1989

NEW YORK (R) — The dollar steadied in 1988 after its sharp fall since 1985 but may resume its decline in the new year because of fears about huge U.S. budget and trade deficits, economists say.

Concern that the global trade adjustment process is stalling threatens the dollar, as does scepticism over whether President-elect George Bush will take quick, substantive steps to cut the federal budget deficit.

Signs indicate that West Germany and Japan may be losing patience with Washington's efforts to narrow the U.S. deficits, which could undermine the policy coordination that supported the dollar in 1988.

The dollar fell 44.6 per cent against the Deutschmark and 50.25 per cent versus Japan's yen from September 1985, when leading industrial nations agreed in their Plaza accord that it was overvalued, to the beginning of 1988.

It touched record lows of 120.20 yen and 1.5615 marks on

Jan. 4, 1988 in Tokyo. But it was later supported by heavy central bank intervention while an expanding U.S. economy and rising interest rates carried it up in a summer rally.

It reached 137.25 yen and 1.9240 marks during the summer but four months later is closing out the year at about 126 yen and 1.79 marks, undermined by concern over the U.S. deficits.

As for 1989, a robust economy and rising interest rates will boost the dollar early in the year, said Jonathan Greenspan of Aegis Capital Management Corp. But as the new year optimism fades, the dollar will hit new lows, dipping to as low as 110 yen and 1.55 marks, he predicts.

But by year's end, assuming Washington has cut the budget deficit and narrowed the trade

shortfall, the dollar should be up to 20 per cent higher again at 140 yen to 150 yen and nearly two marks, Greenspan said.

Other economists share Greenspan's view. "I do think in the near term, the dollar is going lower," said Alan Lerner, managing director of Bankers Trust Co.

Lerner said that strong domestic consumption will keep imports high and the trade deficit large early in 1989. But by year's end, the economy will cool off, narrowing the trade gap and possibly boosting the dollar above current levels.

The U.S. budget deficit remains a major concern in world currency markets, and Bush received a two-edged greeting from world leaders after his presidential victory: A velvet glove of congratulations wrapped around an iron-fisted warning that he must cut the budget deficit.

Dealers said the dollar's subsequent fall was a warning of future events if the new president who takes office Jan. 20 drags his feet

on the issue.

"The major thing with the G-7 will be the budget deficit. There may be a power struggle over that," said Greenspan, referring to the group of major industrial nations.

The Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations switched tactics over the year, said Andrew Hodge of Bank Brussels Lambert. Rather than intervening in the currency market to manage the exchange rate, the group now utilises changes in domestic money supply and interest rates, he said.

Hidden support

The Bank of Japan ran a generous money supply while the Fed tightened credit in 1988, said Hodge. Relatively high U.S. interest rates lured speculative money into dollar assets.

"The dollar is only where it is today because of this hidden support," Hodge said.

But Japanese officials say they are quietly looking for ways to force the Bush administration to

make quicker fiscal reforms, while Chemical Bank economist Warren Trepeta said Japan may have to run a less generous monetary policy next year.

Tired Bundesbank

In addition, the West German Bundesbank has tired of rescuing the dollar when market sentiment sours and the currency comes under attack, dealers said.

West Germany welcomes a stronger mark to curb the mild rise in inflation fuelled by past rounds of dollar-buying, which puts more marks into the money supply, they said.

"I'm convinced that unless we see concrete steps to address the budget deficit, the Bundesbank will put its hands in its pockets when the dollar falls," said Robert Hatcher of Barclays Bank Plc.

"They have told the Fed and the administration, 'get your house in order, or we won't be there the next time the bottom falls out of the dollar,'" he added.

Kremlin restricts activities of small private businesses

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet authorities have banned the country's mushrooming private businesses from trading in a wide range of goods and services — including selling video films, producing alcohol, and treating venereal disease.

The restrictions, ordered by the Council of Ministers and published by the official TASS news agency Thursday, were announced unexpectedly without any public discussion.

The announcement said cooperatives could engage only in some activities, such as publishing, making jewellery and giving certain types of medical assistance if they had contracts to do so with state enterprises.

TASS said city councils had until Feb. 1 to bring local cooperatives in line with the decree.

Political analysts said the restrictions seemed certain to stifle some small private businesses, first permitted two years ago as part of economic reforms launched by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

There are now tens of thousands of them and they provide goods and services that would otherwise be in very short supply in the state-run economy.

For example, in Moscow one cooperative offers medical advice, another has opened a kindergarten with special reading courses. A third selling clothes, shoes, and jewellery is one of the most popular shopping addresses in town.

The new order bans cooperatives from a whole range of lucrative activities such as selling jewellery, selling, renting, copying or showing video films, producing alcohol and buying and selling goods belonging to foreigners.

Also banned are organising pri-

vate schools, manufacturing drugs, weapons and explosives, establishing pawn shops, casinos and lotteries, and producing items with religious symbols or church candles.

The ban also includes giving medical treatment for pregnancy, cancer and venereal disease.

TASS also said small businesses would no longer be allowed to trade in foreign currency in cash. This appeared to suggest that any foreign currency dealings would require bank transfer forms, credit cards, cheques or other paperwork.

Apparently unrestricted by the decree were agricultural cooperatives encouraged by officials to improve the country's food output, and — except for the currency stipulation and a rule that they meet public health requirements — the popular cooperative cafes.

Sales by small businesses totalled about one billion roubles (\$1.6 billion) in the first six months of this year.

But because many cooperative workers make more money than the average Soviet wage-earner, the movement has been controversial from the start.

Newspapers have been filled with stories of cooperatives clashing with local bureaucrats who refuse to give them access to space or materials they need.

Earlier this year the finance ministry drafted plans for raising taxes on cooperatives but it was told to rewrite them after coming under fire in parliament.

In May, the Supreme Soviet, or parliament, adopted a law on cooperatives that TASS said was aimed at encouraging their growth.

The law gave them the right to deal with foreign markets and to draw loans from Soviet banks, in roubles or foreign currency.

But it also contained a clause saying the Council of Ministers could decide how the rules should be applied through decrees — such as the one published Thursday.

Uprising represses Israeli economy

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israelis sold fewer goods in 1988 and had to work harder in a slowing economy because of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, figures on Thursday by the Central Bureau of Statistics showed.

A preliminary national accounts report said Palestinians, urged to boycott Israeli goods, spent 30 per cent less buying Israeli products in 1988 than in 1987.

The drop in sales to \$600 million, from \$900 million, was a factor in a three per cent drop in the total volume of Israeli exports which in 1987 had risen 11 per cent.

The figures also showed that Israelis worked two per cent more hours in 1988 because they did jobs previously done by Palestinian labourers from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The gross domestic product rose by one per cent in 1988, after a 1987 increase of five per cent, the lowest rate of economic growth since 1982.

And the business sector did not expand at all.

Economists blamed shrinking domestic markets, bad weather, the scrapping of Israel's Lavi jet fighter and the uprising.

Unemployment rose to seven per cent by year's end compared to less than six per cent at the beginning of the year.

Domestic military outlay rose by three per cent, compared to two per cent in 1987. According to unofficial estimates, about half the increase was on account of the Palestinian uprising.

Standards of living rose by one to two per cent in 1988, compared to five per cent in 1987.

Interest rates shoot up

Meanwhile, interest rates rose dramatically in Israel Thursday as scepticism mounted over the government's decision earlier in the week to devalue the shekel by five per cent.

Banks and other large financial institutions hid the rate in this week's central bank bill auction to 48.25 per cent annually, compared with 32.8 per cent a week earlier.

Bank Leumi, the largest commercial bank, raised its basic lending rate to two per cent a month from 1.5 per cent, and other financial institutions were expected to follow suit.

Israel radio described the public as "panicked" and said many thought another devaluation was imminent.

"The devaluation has been widely criticised for being inflationary and for its timing, throwing off year end closing of corporate balance sheets."

Business leaders believe a larger devaluation is needed next year to bring the shekel more in line with U.S. and European currencies.

Zvi Amit of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce said companies with foreign currency debts have had to revalue them upward by five per cent in

shekels, thus reducing their profits for the year.

"It hurts their credit lines, it hurts their efforts to attract investment. It hurts all around," Amit said.

Central bank halts trading in foreign currencies

In another development, Israel's central bank Friday halted foreign currency trading to give the market a respite from heavy speculative buying of dollars by the public.

The move made it difficult for travellers and businessmen to get foreign currency to buy plane tickets or to pay for imported goods, but several firms said accommodations were being worked out.

"The Bank of Israel is not buying foreign currency from the public and not selling foreign currency," Freddy Vider, head of the central bank's foreign currency department, said in an Israel radio interview.

"We think such transactions have to be made in a more relaxed atmosphere, and we don't have to tell you what happened in the last few days," he said.

One Israeli economist, who asked that his name not be used, said that rumours of a further

devaluation raised fears among government officials that the public would buy foreign currencies heavily Friday in anticipation of selling them at a higher shekel rate next week.

The central bank's decision means that the currency markets will be closed until Tuesday because foreign exchanges will be closed for the New Year's holiday.

The run on foreign currencies has presented the fledgling Israeli government its first major test since it was installed last week. It stems in large part from major economic problems facing Israel, including a recession, rising budget deficits and inflation approaching 20 per cent a year.

Finance Minister Shimon Peres is expected to introduce a new economic programme next week. The Jerusalem Post said Friday that "the goal of the plan would be to convince the public that the government would not tolerate the continuation of double-digit inflation."

The Hebrew-language Yediot Ahronot daily said the plan would include a further devaluation of the shekel of up to 10 per cent, reforms in government hiring practices, a sharp cut in the budget and an increase in value-added taxes.

Israel radio reported that Peres

was considering imposing a "purchase tax" on imported goods.

Among those affected by the stoppage of currency trading Friday were travellers.

Yossi Klinger, a travel agent, said his company was accepting only dollars or other foreign currency for tickets.

But he said that regular customers who had only shekels were being given tickets on condition they return next week and pay more should the shekel be devalued.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Iraq to buy first GIIC iron pellets

BAHRAIN (R) — A struggling iron pellet plant based in Bahrain has signed a contract to supply Iraq's State Enterprise for Iron and Steel with 4.5 million tonnes of pellets over a five-year period. Company officials said the deal concluded this month was the first sale for Gulf Industrial Investment Co. (GIIC), whose plant is due to reopen soon after a three-year shutdown. They would give no further details. The \$300 million plant, the only one of its kind in Gulf Arab states, was bought last February by the Kuwait Petroleum Company which formed GIIC to operate it. Creditor banks agreed in March to write off \$146 million of debt owed by the previous company, Arab Iron and Steel, in return for an immediate payment of \$72 million by the new owners. GIIC has since signed iron ore supply contracts with India's Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. and to Brazilian firms, Companhia Vale Do Rio Doce and Minerações Brasileiras Reunidas.

Poland to lift rationing next year

WARSAW (R) — Poland will end eight years of petrol rationing on Jan. 1 but the price will go up by more than 50 per cent, the official PAP news agency has said. PAP said a litre of the 94-octane petrol used by most Polish drivers would cost 190 zloties (38 cents) from next month, up from the current 120 zloties (22 cents). Petrol has been available on the free market at a small number of stations since July for about 300 zloties (60 cents) but this accounts for only a small proportion of sales. PAP said lower grade petrol and diesel prices would also increase substantially and made clear that prices would rise further if demand outstripped supply. Annual inflation is about 60 per cent, according to the government. Some official bodies say it may reach 100 per cent by January. The communist government has said it hopes to lift meat and coal rationing next year. PAP also said telecommunication costs, long subsidised by the state, will rise on average by 40 per cent on Jan. 1. The cost of a telephone call made from a Polish home will rise 50 per cent from six to nine zloties (1.2 to 1.8 cents) but a street call will remain at five zloties (one cent).

Vietnam devalues dong again

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Vietnam has devalued its currency against the U.S. dollar for the second time this month, setting a new rate of 3,000 dong to one dollar, the official Voice of Vietnam radio has said. The state bank set the new rate and also changed the exchange rates of other foreign currencies, said the radio, monitored in Bangkok. The rate that was set earlier this month was 2,800 dong to one dollar, compared with the previous 2,600-to-1, set only a few weeks earlier. Vietnamese officials have said a more realistic rate against the dollar is needed to ease foreign investment dealings and control soaring inflation. The black-market rate for the dong has been at least 4,500 dong to the dollar in recent weeks.

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Zimbabwe to probe top scandal

HARARE (AP) — President Robert Mugabe has ordered an official probe into reports that top politicians, bureaucrats and military chiefs were involved in a car sales racket.

He said in a statement he had appointed Judge President Wilson Sandura and two private attorneys to investigate allegations that leaders made handsome profits from the alleged operation.

It was Mugabe's first public move to check out widespread

reports of top-level corruption since he led white-ruled Rhodesia to independence from Britain as black-governed Zimbabwe on April 18, 1980.

The public judicial inquiry will focus on Willowvale Motor Industries (PVT.) Ltd., a corporation that assembles most of Zimbabwe's motor vehicles under state direction.

The investigators were to establish whether Willowvale sold cars or trucks illegally to buyers who were not registered

dealers and, if so, what happened to the vehicles.

Mugabe's decision to order the probe followed recent reports that 20 cabinet ministers, senior civil servants and security chiefs bought vehicles directly from Willowvale at a time when would-be private buyers must wait years to buy cars and trucks.

Shortages of foreign currency limit imports of vehicles to about 20 per cent of the nation's needs.

Cabinet ministers and members of parliament are entitled to buy one vehicle, each from the Willowvale plant at controlled government prices, but are barred from reselling them.

But local newspapers alleged that some of these buyers resold the vehicles privately at bloated black-market prices.

The Chronicle newspaper of Bulawayo, which has long crusaded against corruption, identified Vice-President Simon Muzenda.

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Bulls beat the whistle

NEW YORK (AP) — Scottie Pippen put in Chicago's third try at the winning basket as the Bulls sounded Thursday night, lifting the Bulls to a 108-106 victory over the New York Knicks.

Michael Jordan scored with 44 seconds left to tie the game 106-106. Patrick Ewing missed a shot for New York with 22 seconds left, setting up the Bulls' final possession.

Jordan, who had 37 points, took the first shot with five seconds left, but it was blocked. Horace Grant missed a tip-in, but Pippen hit from inside the lane,

giving him a season-high 23 points.

Knicks coach Rick Pitino was ejected for arguing an official's call in the fourth quarter.

The score was tied 90-90 when a foul was called on Ewing. Pitino received two technical fouls for arguing the call.

Derek Harper scored 11 points during a season-high 40-point first quarter as Dallas defeated Boston for the second time in team history.

Dallas, which had dropped 15 of 16 previous meetings against Boston, hit nine of its first 10 shots and 13-of-16 to build leads of as many as 15 points.

Ragamuffin wins

HOBART (R) — Veteran skipper Syd Fischer piloted Ragamuffin to line honours in the Sydney-Hobart yacht race Friday, ending an 18-year quest for the Ocean Classic.

Ragamuffin crossed the finish line in Hobart at 44.29 a.m. local time to complete the 630-mile race in three days, 15 hours, 29 minutes and seven seconds.

Fischer, a past winner of the Admirals' Cup, had been foiled in all his previous attempts in the race, including last year's when

Ragamuffin's boom broke off the Tasmanian coast allowing Sovereign to take victory.

The success of the Sydney Maxi capped a dramatic race in which more than 30 of the 119 starters retired after the fleet was subjected to fierce 30-knot southerlies and huge seas during the race.

Pre-race favourite Windward Passage II withdrew on the first night with a cracked hull, enabling Ragamuffin to lead the rest of the way to Hobart.

LONDON (R) — Britain has two world champion boxers at the moment — Welterweight Lloyd Honeyghan and Flyweight Duke McKenzie. Bruno, however, is the celebrity of the sport, with constant television exposure and his face in ads for candy-bars and pasta sauce, and he said there never has been a better time for him to challenge Tyson.

"With all that's happened to him over the past year, this is the peak time," he said.

Bruno's only other title fight ended in an 11th-round knockout by Tim Witherspoon in July 1986, before more than 70,000 screaming British fans at Wembley stadium.

Bruno has won all four of his fights since then and, while he won't have that home advantage this time, Bruno will have another edge when he meets Tyson in Vegas, according to Lawless.

"The thing that Frank has going for him is that he's been in it before," the manager said after putting Bruno through a workout at the Royal Oak Gym, a sweaty bandbox above a pub in London's blue-collar East End. "In the past, Tyson has overawed people, and he won't do that against Frank."

Lawless said the difference was brought home to him during the news conference with promoter Don King in Las Vegas last month announcing plans for the bout.

"Before the Witherspoon fight,



Bruno disposing of Jo Bugner on his rise to fame

Bruno's peak challenge

Frank got hit with what I call the 'Don King syndrome,' all the things that King does, the joking around and all," he said. "Witherspoon was an exceptionally talented heavyweight, but the show took something out of Frank."

"In Las Vegas at the news conference this time, Frank was laughing at King's jokes. He's used to it now."

Lawless said Bruno was about five pounds over his fighting weight but otherwise in excellent shape.

Paris-Dakar leaves Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Philippe Auriault of France on a Yamaha 125 led a field of 396 motorbikes and cars out of Tunis Wednesday at the start of the 9,700-km African section of the Paris-Tunis-Dakar rally.

The vehicles arrived at the port of La Goulette just north of Tunis at dawn after a one-day passage by boat from Barcelona, the last stop on the European section of the rally.

Thousands of Tunisians packed November 7 square in the city centre to see the first of the 155 bikes set off on a relatively leisurely drive to the southwestern town of Tozeur, the main oasis in the Tunisian Sahara.

The drive to Tozeur, which goes through populated areas, is not one of the timed sections so the drivers are required to observe normal speed limits.

The ministers of transport, tourism and youth and sports — Ahmed Smaoui, Mohammed Jeghan and Hammouda Ben Slama — were among the dignitaries on the starting ramp.

The Tunisian authorities, who are hosting the event for the first time, had decorated the square with hundreds of flags of the 28 nationalities taking part.

The first of the competitive stages began the following day in the village of Djimma, 100 km (60 miles) east of the city of

Gabes, running 308 km to Bourj Bourguiba in the part of Tunisia which juts south between Libya and Algeria.

This part of the course runs through sparsely populated desert where there is little risk of villagers being injured.

The vehicles then drive through Libya, Niger, Mali and Guinea to arrive in the Senegalese capital Jan, 13.

The rally was a record of high casualties and the organisers, the Thierry Sabine organisation, say they have reinforced their medical support team.

This year they are deploying an emergency evacuation plane, two helicopters, and 15 four-wheel-drive ambulances with a medical staff of 13.

The first 10 Paris-Dakar rallies were passed through Algeria. The Tunisian-Libyan route is an innovation introduced because this year the Algerian authorities were slow in answering a request for permission to cross their territory.

The request went in October, when the government was preoccupied with riots in Algiers and other cities.

Former world sports car champion Jacky Ickx of Belgium won the first timed stage of the Paris-Dakar rally Thursday, beating favourite Ari Vatanen of Finland into third place.

Ickx, 43, six times winner of the Le Mans 24-hours race, was timed at one hour 23 minutes 10 seconds on special sections on the 308 kms from Djimma to Bordj Bourguiba in Tunisia.

Frenchman Guy Frenkelin, exactly two minutes behind, was second. The top three are all driving Peugeots.

Leading Standings after the first stage:

1. J. Ickx/C. Taria (Belgium) Peugeot (one hour 23 minutes 10 seconds). All drivers are measured by now far behind the leader they stand (in minutes and seconds).
2. G. Frenkelin/F. Frenkelin (France) Peugeot 2:00
3. A. Vatanen (Finland)/B. Berglund (Sweden) Peugeot 6:39
4. H. Pescarolo/P. Fourtq (France) Range Rover 6:48
5. P. Lariguet/B. Maingret (France) Mitsubishi 11:29
6. P. Ziniroli/A. Andrieu (France) Land Rover 11:36
7. K. Shinozuka/H. Magne (Japan/France) Mitsubishi 14:54
8. P. Tambay/D. Lemoine (France) Mitsubishi 16:55
9. P. Wamburgue/A. Guenhennec (France) Peugeot 20:30
10. J. Da Silva/D. Thomas (France) Mitsubishi 20:32

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ107532 ♣7 ♦85 ♣K63
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond. What action do you take?
A.—Since you have every reason to expect to take six tricks with spades as trumps, this is the time to preempt. Jump to three spades to tell partner you have a reasonable seven-card spade suit and not much in the way of defense.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠J9532 ♣83 ♣Q7 ♦10653
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?
A.—At no trump, your hand will produce few, if any, tricks for partner. At spades, however, you are bound to single in at least a couple of tricks with your long trumps. The hand will certainly play better at the suit contract, so bid two spades.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠83 ♣J9532 ♣Q863 ♦AK5
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ DBI ?
What action do you take?
A.—There is a standard way to show a good hand after partner's opening bid has been doubled by your right-hand opponent. Redouble. That neither confirms nor denies support for partner's suit—the subsequent auction will clarify your intentions.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK7652 ♣7 ♦AK3 ♣Q102

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ DBI 2 ♣ ?

What action do you take?
A.—Partner's redouble asks you to allow him to make the next call—he might want to double for penalties. You disregard that in only two cases: 1) Where you have a weak, distributional hand unsuitable for defending an opposing contract; or 2) where you have a powerful hand and you fear that a low-level penalty double won't compensate for a missed game or, possibly, slam. Neither condition applies here. Pass.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠J542 ♣Q63 ♣982 ♣542
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ DBI Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—You can't pass for penalties, and neither your hand nor your stopper in spades is good enough for you to bid one no trump—that would show some 7-9 points. Partner has asked you to bid your longest suit, so with three three-card suits make the cheapest bid available—two clubs.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q83 ♣Q6 ♣KQ62 ♣AQ92
Partner opens the bidding with three spades. What action do you take?
A.—At this vulnerability, partner's preempt promises six tricks. While your hand might produce four tricks if things go well, it might not even yield three if the cards be badly. Pass.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Olsson leads Canada to 9-1 hockey win

DAVOS (AP) — John Olsson scored twice in a second-period streak of six goals as Team Canada trounced Czechoslovakia's VZS Kosice 9-1 Thursday night in the Spengler Cup hockey tournament. The lopsided game left all five competing teams with a chance to advance to Saturday's finals, which follows the five-day round-robin. Nelson Emerson opened the score at 2:37 and Kosice's Jan Vodila tied the game at 10:13. After that, Czechoslovakia was left behind. Team Canada's goalie Mike Sands saved 37 shots and was named by a jury to be the best player on the winning side. In earlier action, Kriliya Moscow downed Davos selection, a mixed Swiss-Canadian team, 4-2.

Graf returns with vengeance

PERTH (R) — Grand Slam champion Steffi Graf served notice of her determination to defend her Australian Open crown next month when she produced an awe-inspiring comeback performance Friday. Graf, playing her first match in nearly six weeks, needed just 57 minutes to demolish Frenchwoman Pascale Paradis 6-2, 6-1 and help West Germany to reach the semifinals of the Hopman Cup. The world number one then teamed up with compatriot Patrick Kuhne to give West Germany an unbeatable 2-0 lead over France by winning a tough mixed doubles 7-6 (7-3), 7-5 against Paradis and Thierry Tulasne. Kuhne made it a clean sweep for West Germany when he beat Tulasne 6-1, 5-7, 6-1 in the final dead singles of the first-round match.

Green arrested for drunk driving

NEW YORK (AP) — Boxer Mitch Green, whose driver's license already has been suspended 54 times, was arrested early Friday on a charge of driving while intoxicated and a drug possession charge, police said. Green, 31, was arrested at 2:08 a.m. in the predominantly black district of Harlem in Upper Manhattan, according to police spokesman Sgt. Maurice Howard. Green was charged with driving while intoxicated and possession of a controlled substance, Angel Dust or PCP, Howard said. In September, Green was arrested and charged with third-degree assault for allegedly striking a woman, police said.

Johnson's fall was no surprise

TORONTO (R) — The trade of ice hockey superstar Wayne Gretzky was a runaway winner over the Ben Johnson steroid scandal as the surprise of the year in Canadian sports, according to a poll released Thursday. Gretzky's trade from the Edmonton

Oilers to the Los Angeles Kings received 36 votes as surprise of the year in the annual Canadian press and broadcast news poll of sportswriters and broadcasters. Seventeen ballots named the Johnson incident, in which the sprinter had his Olympic gold snatched away and world record time nullified in Seoul when he tested positive for steroids.

Soviet players on bail for shoplifting

STUTTGART (AP) — Three Soviet ice hockey players detained by police for shoplifting have been released after the West German ice hockey federation paid bail, officials said Friday. The three, who were not identified, were caught trying to walk out of a Stuttgart department store with goods worth \$365, police said. Police said the three were arrested Wednesday and released several hours later, after the German federation paid bail. The amount of bail was not specified and authorities will decide in the next few days whether to charge the players. The three are members of a Soviet selection taking part in the four-nation German Cup tournament in Stuttgart. They were out bann from playing.

Fighting fines

NEW YORK (R) — Five players, including Akeem Olajuwon of the Houston Rockets and Charles Oakley of the New York Knicks, were fined Thursday for fighting in incidents that marred three National Basketball Association (NBA) games. Olajuwon was fined \$1,500 for hitting John Shasky of the Miami Heat in the face with an open hand during their game, and Oakley was fined \$2,000 for fighting with Atlanta Hawks guard Glenn Rivers, who was fined \$1,500. Jay Humphries of the Milwaukee Bucks was fined \$5,000 and Scott Skiles of the Indiana Pacers was docked \$3,000 following their punch-up at Milwaukee. All three games took place Tuesday.

Wembley stadium capacity to be cut

LONDON (R) — The capacity of Wembley stadium, scene of the 1966 World Cup soccer final, is to be cut from 98,000 to 87,000. In a \$32,000 million re-building programme, seating will replace terracing behind both goals. Wembley stages all England's home soccer internationals and the finals of domestic cup competitions. Jarvis Astaire, vice-chairman of the company which owns Wembley, said: "We are trying to bring the stadium up to date for the 21st century and that means it will eventually have to be all-seaters. We have to move toward what I have always hoped it would be — the greatest stadium in the world. In this day and age with people able to watch on TV, 87,000 is surely enough. The days of 100,000-strong crowds are gone."

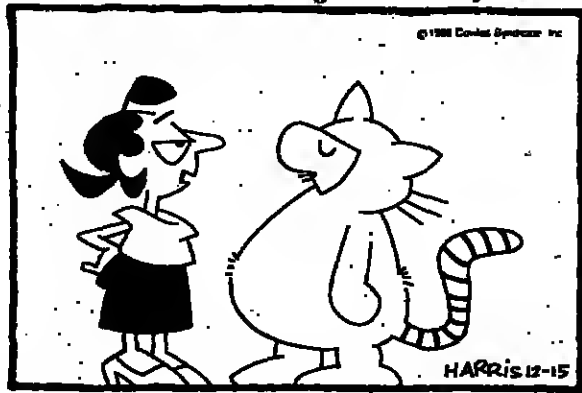
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WHAT THE TAXIDERMAST'S PERSONALITY CERTAINLY WAS.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

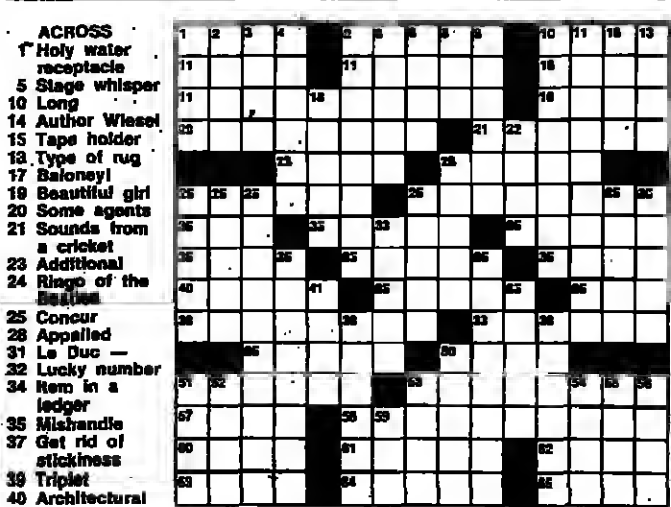
Print answer here: "O O O O O O O O"

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRAIN ITCHY MELODY VASSAL
Answer: What happened when their shellfish business suffered financial reverses? — IT WAS A "CLAM-ITY" (calamity)

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon



ACROSS
1 Holy water receptacle
5 Stage whisper
10 Long
14 Author Wiesel
15 Tape holder
17 Type of rug
17 Salween
19 Beautiful girl
20 Some agents
21 Sounds from
24 Additional
24 Rialto of the
25 Concur
26 Appalled
31 Le Duc —
32 Lucky number
34 Item in a
35 ledger
37 Mishandle
37 Get rid of
38 Sickness
39 Triple
40 Architectural
42 A riot
44 Shoe width
45 They deny everything
47 Coaxion (Longfellow)
48 Moroccan money
50 — die
51 Call, mount
53 Jonathan
54 Swift's e.g.
57 Injection for short
58 VIPs
60 Barbara of TV
61 Mary Ann
61 Evans
62 Zola novel
63 State of confusion
64 Alligator
65 Knot in wood

DOWN
1 Dead
2 Leather wine flask
3 Thatching palm
4 "not in mourning" numbers (Longfellow)
5 Various
6 Be merciful
7 Debtor's notes
8 Blissy dwarf
9 Put into
10 One with high hopes
11 Did George ax it?
12 Erato's instrument
13 Shale var.
18 Some jackets
22 Harms part
24 Facial cavity
25 Hindu soul
26 Portion
27 Words from
28 Fr. artist
29 Indians
30 Units of force
33 Snares
36 Affair
38 Revolve
41 RBT u.g. (quadrant)
42 Argument
46 Very happy
48 Grade over
50 Wooden shoe
51 Noah's son
52 — Park, Eng.
53 Revolve
54 — instant (quadrant)
55 Yamen city
56 Despot
59 Palm leaf var.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Ethiopia may split Eritrea into two autonomous regions

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam says his government will consider a plan to split the war-torn northern province of Eritrea into two autonomous regions in an effort to bring peace there.

Mengistu received a petition from a delegation of former Eritrean rebels Thursday urging him to divide the former Italian colony into self-ruling regions, one for the exclusively Muslim lowlands and the other for Christian-dominated highlands.

After listening to the petition, read out to him in the presence of journalists, Mengistu said he would soon put the proposal to Marxist Ethiopia's one-party parliament.

The five-man delegation of former Eritrean rebels said it represented the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF), once the main separatist movement in Eritrea, the country's northern province on the Red Sea.

However, the ELF became

fragmented and disappeared as a military force in the late 1970's.

The only rebel movement still fighting in Eritrea is the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), which defeated or absorbed the military forces of the ELF and other rival secessionist movements between 1978 and 1979.

The EPLF, which captured most of Northern and Western Eritrea during a major offensive earlier this year, has called for an internationally supervised referendum as the basis for a ceasefire. The plebiscite would decide whether Eritrea should become an independent state, an autonomous region federated with Ethiopia or an integral part of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia's government also faces another serious rebellion in the neighbouring province of Tigray.

Mohammad Ahmad, the spokesman of the ELF delegation, told Mengistu: "After 28 years of armed struggle, we now believe that justice and equality prevails in Ethiopia and we have accepted the peace call."

"There is no other way of settling the fratricidal war in Eritrea," he added.

Mohammad said his petition for the creation of two separate autonomous regions in Eritrea represented the wish of 750,000 Eritrean lowlanders exiled in Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Europe and North America who wanted to return home.

An estimated three million people live in Eritrea, a triangular strip of desert lowlands and mountains along the Red Sea coast. An Italian colony from 1890, it was captured by British forces in World War II.

The territory became federated

with Ethiopia in 1952 under an arrangement approved by the United Nations, but it was annexed outright by Addis Ababa in 1962.

A secessionist rebellion broke out in Eritrea in 1961, supported at first by states opposed to Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie.

However, Communist support for an independent Eritrea ended after Haile Selassie was toppled by a left-wing military coup in 1974 and Ethiopia became a firm friend of the Soviet Union and Cuba.

Speaking in Arabic, Mohammad said the division of Eritrea into two separate autonomous regions was justified by long-standing differences in culture, language and religion between the lowlanders and the highlanders and a deep-rooted political antagonism between the two communities.

"The degree of contradiction between the two sides could not be easily reconciled," he said.

African students seize Chinese teacher

PEKING (R) — African students accused of having AIDS boycotted classes at an East China University and kidnapped a professor in the latest incident between blacks and Chinese, student sources said Friday.

Fifty Africans at Hangzhou's Agriculture University stayed away from classes and remained in their dormitory Friday, guarded by police, African students at another college in the city said.

The incidents in Hangzhou followed weekend clashes between African students and Chinese in Nanjing, 250 kilometres to the northwest, which were followed by four days of anti-African protests.

Thousands of Chinese took to Nanjing's streets chanting "black devils" and demanding punish-

ment for Africans after the clashes at the city's Hehai University.

An African student in Hangzhou said by telephone the Africans at the Agriculture University began their classroom strike Monday after a long row over college attempts to bar Chinese from socialising with them.

"Chinese were being told the Africans all had AIDS and that they were not allowed to visit their dormitory," he said, adding that most of the Africans were male and some had Chinese girlfriends.

Similar incidents on Chinese campuses in the 1980s have been sparked by socialising between Africans and Chinese women.

Foreign students and other long-term foreign residents in China must prove they are free of

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) on arrival in the country.

Earlier this week Africans seized a Chinese professor on the Agriculture University campus and held him in their dormitory for several hours, the student said. The man escaped next morning.

"The situation is now very tense. There are police around the building and the Africans are inside without food," the student said.

Several Africans had tried to leave Hangzhou by rail but staff at the city's main station refused to sell tickets to anyone of African appearance, he said.

The Africans are demanding a meeting with university leaders and an end to the ban on contacts with Chinese, requests which offi-

cials had refused to discuss, he said.

In Nanjing, 130 African students have been held at a guest house outside the city since Monday after violence erupted Saturday night over the admission of Chinese women to an African student dance.

Thirteen people, including two African students, were injured, according to official Chinese reports.

Liang Ruiju, head of Hehai University, said Thursday "seven or eight" Africans who had started the fighting would be punished.

Several thousand Africans are studying in China, most at Peking's expense, as part of China's aid programmes to the Third World. They often complain of racial discrimination.

Angola sends aid request to U.N.

LISBON (AP) — Angolan President Eduardo Dos Santos has formalised a request to the United Nations for economic aid to finance the withdrawal of Cuban troops, the state news agency ANGOP reported.

Some 50,000 Cuban troops have supported the Luanda government in its 13-year civil war against Western-backed rebels.

According to the report, monitored Thursday in Lisbon, Dos Santos sent a letter to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, requesting aid. Luanda says it will cost an estimated \$800 million to send the Cubans home.

"Because of the economic difficulties faced by Angola and Cuba, (their economies) cannot bear the costs alone," ANGOP

reported Dos Santos as saying in his letter.

Angola, Cuba and South Africa signed peace accords Dec. 22 in New York that foresee the gradual pullout of the Cubans from the Southwest African nation and the implementation of an independence plan for neighbouring Namibia that has been ruled by Pretoria for 73 years.

Meanwhile, the Portuguese news agency LUSA reported Thursday from Luanda plans for further personnel changes in Angola's Marxist government.

LUSA quoted unnamed official sources as saying Interior Minister Alexandre Rodrigues "Kio" will give up that post in March or April.

LUSA reported Dos Santos had already taken over the minis-

ter's duties, following Rodrigues' earlier demotion from his post of police general commander mid-December.

At that time, Dos Santos said he had been "bothered by reports of the existence of special (commando) forces," formed without his or the government's knowledge, that might have helped spread rumours of preparations for a coup d'etat in Luanda.

According to LUSA, the sources added Industry Minister Henrique Carvalho Dos Santos would be transferred to head up local government in Huambo province and was to be replaced by Antonio Henriques Da Silva.

The sources also told LUSA of planned alternations in Angola's diplomatic service, with several

ambassadors to European countries slated to change and the appointment of Daniel Chipenda as ambassador to Egypt.

Chipenda split from the currently ruling MPLA Party to join the rival National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA).

UNITA violence

The rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, also known by its Portuguese acronym UNITA, Thursday claimed responsibility for planting a bomb that exploded in downtown Luanda Tuesday, killing one person and injuring 13.

In a statement released in Lisbon, the rebels said their urban guerrilla forces planted the bomb that went off at 10 p.m. (local time).

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

31 dead in week of clashes in Philippines

MANILA (AP) — Scattered clashes by Communist rebels and government soldiers have killed at least 31 people this week, authorities said. The military said six soldiers were killed and six others wounded when rebels ambushed an army patrol Thursday in Nueva Ecija province, 80 kilometres north of Manila. Hundreds of guerrillas attacked a military detachment in the Samar Island town of Arceche Thursday, killing at least five soldiers on the island 400 kilometres southwest of Manila.

50 claimed killed in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — A human rights group claimed Friday that army commandos rounded up 50 youths in a raid on a village in southern Sri Lanka and then shot them as suspected left-wing rebels. A spokeswoman for the United Nations for Peace and Democracy said security forces seized the youths Dec. 26 from Hingama in Hambantota district and took them away. "We have information that they were killed. There is no trace of their bodies. They might be rebels or innocent people — there is no conclusive evidence," she said.

Report: 13 died in Mexican police custody

MEXICO CITY (R) — A respected left-leaning newspaper said Thursday that 13 prisoners were shot in cold blood after the end of a siege at a Mexican jail last week that left 23 dead. The newspaper La Jornada, in a front-page story, said the 13 prisoners were shot at point-blank range by police commandos after a siege had been resolved at the state prison in Tepic, capital of the northwestern state of Nayarit. Ernesto Octavio Medina, deputy director of investigations for the Nayarit public minister's office, told Reuters the authorities had not received any testimony to corroborate the La Jornada report.

Fireworks explosion kills 11 in Philippines

PHILIPPINES (AP) — An explosion at an illegal fireworks factory levelled five houses, triggered a fire and killed at least 11 people in this town north of Manila, officials said Friday. Police said more than 20 people were injured in the blast Thursday night, which blew the roofs or walls off 10 other homes in the Bulacan province town. About 10 people were making firecrackers and sparklers in one of the houses when two barrels of powder ignited in the explosion, heard several kilometres away, police said. Authorities said the fire was quickly put out.

Marcos suffering from heart failure

MANILA (R) — Ousted Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos was admitted to a Honolulu hospital Thursday night and was diagnosed to be suffering from congestive heart failure, a hospital spokeswoman said. "Marcos does have congestive heart failure and possibly pneumonia. He is in guarded condition but is resting comfortably," she said in a telephone interview. It was the second time this month the 71-year-old former ruler had been taken to St. Francis Medical Centre. He was earlier diagnosed to be suffering

from congestive heart failure, meaning his heart was unable to maintain adequate blood circulation.

Koreas to discuss joint sports teams

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea agreed Friday to a North Korean proposal for talks on sending a joint team to the 1990 Asian Games in Peking to help ease tension on the divided Korean peninsula. A letter from the head of the South Korean Olympic Committee suggesting that the talks begin March 9 was presented Friday to North Korean officials at the border truce village of Panmunjom.

FAA announces new security plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said Thursday it was requiring tightened security by U.S. air carriers at 103 airports in the Middle East and Western Europe, including X-ray or physical inspection of all checked baggage and random physical checks of some carry-on baggage. The new measures will be effective within 48 hours and "far exceed existing international standards," said FAA Administrator T. Allan McArthur.

Coup-plot rumours boost security in Zanzibar

NAIROBI (R) — Tanzania has sent troop reinforcements from the mainland to Zanzibar after rumours of a planned coup there, residents of the autonomous island said Thursday. In reports reaching Nairobi, they quoted government officials as saying unnamed opponents of Zanzibari President Idris Abdul Wakil were planning to stage a coup.

3,000 nuclear mishaps in U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. commercial nuclear reactor experienced nearly 3,000 "mishaps" and at least 430 emergency shutdowns in 1987 in response to real or imagined safety breaches, a private watchdog group said Thursday. Public Citizen, in its annual nuclear power safety report, said emergency shutdowns are indicative of the danger posed by nuclear power and the government's failure to adequately regulate the industry's 109 reactors. "Throughout 1987, badly managed commercial nuclear plants daily threatened the safety of the 96 million Americans who live within 50 miles (80 kilometres) of a reactor," the report said. "There is every reason to believe that an accident like that which occurred at Chernobyl can happen here," it said.

Refusal of amnesty causes row in Canada

TORONTO (AP) — The government's refusal to grant amnesty to 85,000 people claiming refugee status was criticised Thursday as ineffective and insensitive, but others said the new plan could solve a mounting problem. "No one wants to reward refugee-scum artists or the blatant queue-jumpers who take the place of legitimate applicants," the Toronto Star wrote in an editorial. "But to show little compassion for those thousands who have been here for months seems hard-hearted at the very least."



SHORT-LIVED SMILES — Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita of Japan smiles surrounded by members of a new cabinet he announced Tuesday.

But before the cabinet could get off the ground, scandal hit and forced the resignation of Justice Minister Takashi Hasegawa (left).

Justice minister quits in spiralling Japanese scandal

TOKYO (R) — A new Japanese justice minister was named Friday to replace Takashi Hasegawa, who resigned after being linked to the scandal he was appointed to clear up.

Hasegawa, who was appointed four days ago, told reporters he had been "imprudent."

The new minister is 78-year-old Masami Takatsuki, a former supreme court judge and former chief of the cabinet legislation bureau, said officials at Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's office.

Hasegawa was appointed as a "Mr. Clean" in a cabinet reshuffle aimed at cooling controversy over the long-running scandal

centring on the Recruit Cosmos real estate company.

But, following press reports, he admitted Thursday that since 1976 his personal political organisation had received \$48,000 from the Recruit Cosmos, parent of Recruit Cosmos.

Recruit Cosmos is under investigation for offering cheap shares to leading politicians and businessmen before public issue. The shares soared after they were listed on the Tokyo stock exchange and the early buyers made huge profits.

The scandal led to the downfall of Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who resigned in early December after admitting his secretary

had bought shares in the company.

"It is justifiable that politicians receive political donations widely from bona fide supporters," Hasegawa said at a news conference after submitting his resignation.

"But it is imprudent of me as justice minister," he said, "to receive donations from Recruit as I was in charge of further elucidating the Recruit issues under the Takeshita cabinet, whose major target is to secure political trust."

"It is natural that he should resign," said Tsuruo Yamaguchi, secretary of the Japan Socialist Party.

Yugoslav premier resigns

BELGRADE (AP) — The government resigned Friday in the face of mounting economic problems and parliament's refusal to pass some of its key laws designed to improve the situation, state Tanjug news agency said.

It was the first resignation by a federal government since the Communist Party came to power after World War II.

The move followed widespread public disenchantment with the inability of Premier Branko Mikulic and his cabinet to resolve nagging economic problems, including an annual inflation rate of 250 per cent, foreign debt at \$21 billion and a 15-per cent unemployment rate.

There have been more strikes this year than ever before in Yugoslavia's modern history, with workers protesting low wages and falling living standards.

Inflation has soared since Mikulic took as premier in 1986. He survived a vote of confidence last May, when deputies from the northern republic of Slovenia and from Croatia failed to gather support from parliamentary delegates of other four Yugoslav republics to vote out the government.

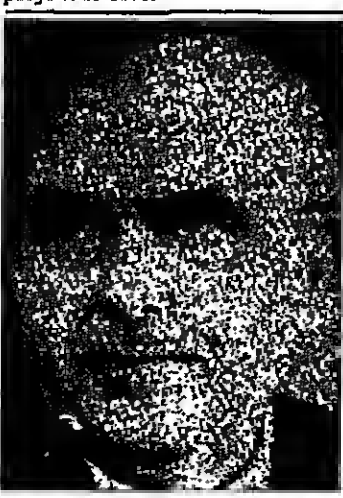
Mikulic's reputation has been further dented by a corruption scandal involving hundreds of party and government officials in

his native republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

IMF

The Mikulic government was rocked Wednesday, when parliamentary deputies voted against a government austerity law that would limit wages in hard-pressed public services like health and education.

The vote defied warnings from Mikulic of "Yugoslavia's obligations to the International Monetary Fund," the Washington-based financial organisation which has attempted to mitigate the country's economic woes.



Andreas Papatheou

No early elections in Greece

ATHENS (R) — Prime Minister Andreas Papatheou Thursday rejected calls for early elections and predicted his Socialist Party would be re-elected in the voting due next June.

"I have stressed before and repeat that elections will be held in June 1989 at the end of our four-year mandate," he said in a speech to an annual congress of the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK).

He criticised the Communist Party for joining the main opposition, centre-right New Democracy Party in demanding immediate elections because of scandals that have dogged his government since September.

The socialists must adopt "an aggressive political stand from this day" to fend off attacks by opposition parties and the press, Papatheou said.

The government has been battered over a scandal that broke in October at the privately-owned Bank of Crete.

State auditors found more than \$200 million missing from the bank and opposition parties have alleged that senior socialist officials tried to slow the investigation and may have been involved.

Early this month a scandal erupted at the state-owned Arms Industry (EVO), with allegations of multi-million-dollar commissions paid to fictitious companies for arms sales.

That scandal prompted deputy Defence Minister Stathis Votas to resign, saying the government was corrupt.

Pretoria bans 4 anti-apartheid groups

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The law and order minister banned four anti-apartheid groups Thursday, using state-of-emergency regulations that have now shut down 52 organisations this year.

Two of the latest targets were teachers' unions and a third was a student group that coordinated anti-government protests earlier this year in mixed-race townships near Cape Town.

The fourth banned group was the National Detainees Forum, established in July to carry on monitoring work that had been conducted by the Detainees Parents Support Committee before its banning in February.

Both watchdog groups have played a major role in providing information on the thousands of activists, most of them black, detained without charge for varying periods during the 30-month-old state of emergency.

A statement issued on behalf of Law and Order Minister Adriaan

Vlok said the predominantly black Democratic Teachers Union and the predominantly mixed-race Western Cape Teachers Union had promoted "people's education" — an effort by non-white communities to exert greater control over curriculum in their schools.

A year ago, the cabinet minister for black education, Gerrit Viljoen, said the government saw important positive elements in people's education. But Feet Bothma, a spokesman for Vlok, said Thursday the concept was inspired by the outlawed African National Congress (ANC).

Thousands of mixed-race students around Cape Town, in some cases supported by faculty, staged a widespread classroom boycott in April to protest detentions and harassment of students and teachers.

The latest bans were denounced by South Africa's Human Rights Commission.

U.S. military bases may face axing

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A special commission has proposed closing scores of redundant military bases in the United States, including some steeped in history, but the money expected to be saved is far less than earlier predictions.

The bipartisan commission was set up to decide which of 4,200 U.S. domestic bases and other military facilities should be shut down after Congress, fearful of the political impact of putting civilian employees out of a job, had barred major base closures for 11 years.

This impasse meant the Defense Department was forced to maintain installations, some more than a century old, that had long outlived their usefulness.

The commission, in a report made public Thursday, announced a proposal to close 86 military bases and barracks and partially shut down others in action officials said would save \$5.6 billion over 20 years.

Fifty-four other bases were recommended for realignment.

No foreign U.S. bases are involved. Former Sen. Abraham Ribicoff, who served as co-chairman of the 12-member commission,

said many of the bases slated for closing are obsolete.

Future wars

"They are not capable of providing 'future training for future wars,'" he said.

Most of the initial reaction in congress to the panel recommendations was positive, and leading lawmakers predicted eventual passage of the proposal to close or realign 145 installations around the country for a saving of almost \$700 million annually.

"I have a positive reaction," the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sam Nunn, said at a news conference. "This process is a step forward. ... I would have liked to have seen more."

The house and senate will discuss the proposal in the coming months, and the debate is likely to stir up a long-standing controversy in the United States and abroad about how much each U.S. ally should contribute to defence against the Soviet bloc. Many Democrats in congress argue that the NATO allies, as well as Japan and South Korea, should give more.

COLUMN 8

Indian artifact claimed as fraud

GLAIME DALLAS (AP) — A piece of shell jewelry once hailed as a 10,000-year-old Indian relic depicting a wholly mammoth is really about 1,000 years old and was found in the last century by a shady amateur archaeologist, an anthropologist says. David Meltzer of Southern Methodist University called the carving resembling the animal that became extinct 10,000 years ago a "mammoth (size) fraud." He spent eight years researching the history of the piece, a hand-size whale shell pendant, and used carbon 14 dating to determine its age. The pendant was rediscovered in the 1970s by Smithsonian Institution researchers who found it in a drawer, where it apparently had lain since the end of the 19th century. It had been produced by Hilbourne T. Cresson as a discovery he'd made in northern Delaware, near Holly Oak. But for some reason, the artifact, known as the Holly Oak Pendant, was forgotten for decades. Meltzer said.

Hammer seeks presidential pardon

LOS ANGELES (AP) — With less than a month to go before he leaves office, President Ronald Reagan has been asked to consider pardons for a number of people, including industrialist Armand Hammer, a newspaper reported Thursday. Hammer pleaded guilty in March 1976 to three misdemeanor charges of making secret contributions to President Nixon's 1972 reelection campaign. He was fined \$3,000 and placed on a year's probation, and has spent several years seeking a pardon. "I set out to clear my name," Hammer wrote in his autobiography. The period between the Nov. 8 election and George Bush's Jan. 20 inauguration could allow Reagan to act on controversial decisions, such as pardons, without political repercussions while also saving the Bush administration from the task later, White House officials told the Los Angeles Times.

American vet meets Soviet war mom

SEATTLE (AP) — A Vietnam war hero from San Diego, California and the mother of a dead Afghan war hero say they helped each other deal with their traumatic experiences. On a trip to the Soviet Union with 18 other Vietnam veterans this month to counsel and learn from veterans of the Afghanistan conflict and their families, Jack Lyon, 48, gave Zinaida Tchivlova, also 48, the silver star he was awarded for gallantry. A report on the trip sponsored by Earthstewards Network of Bainbridge Island, was published by the Seattle Times. Lyon was honoured for leading his platoon to victory despite being wounded and trapped in a Vietnamese rice paddy while serving as a Marine Corps captain from 1964 to 1966. At a cemetery in Alma-Ata, USSR, lies Oleg Tchivlova, a lieutenant who was killed in Afghanistan in 1982 at age 21. Giving her his medal, Lyon said, "I know this won't bring your son back, but it's a piece of my heart."

Bodies of missing grandfather, grandson found

TACOMA (AP) — Hollis Day gave his daughter an extra warm hug the last morning of her Christmas visit and told her he would watch her 2-year-old handicapped son, Dylan, while she packed for the trip home. The 75-year-old man then drove off with his only grandson, leaving a note that said only: "Gramps and Dylan have gone bye-bye together." On Thursday, two days later, Hollis Day and his grandson were found shot to death in a locked vehicle on wooded, family-owned land 80 kilometres away, Sheriff Bill Logan said. The gun was near the bodies. Both were shot in the head. Debbie Day said she had realised a few hours after her father left with Dylan that he may have been saying goodbye forever. "He told me what a wonderful girl and mother I was," she said of the exchange Tuesday. Dylan was developmentally disabled, his mother said. He couldn't walk or talk, and the right side of his body was limp because of palsy. Hollis Day was scheduled for cataract surgery Thursday and was anxious about his own future, she said. "It's hard to believe he would hurt anybody, much less his grandson, but he'd written me a number of letters, talking about dreams he'd had about flying with Dylan into the hereafter," Ms. Day said.

John, in 1988